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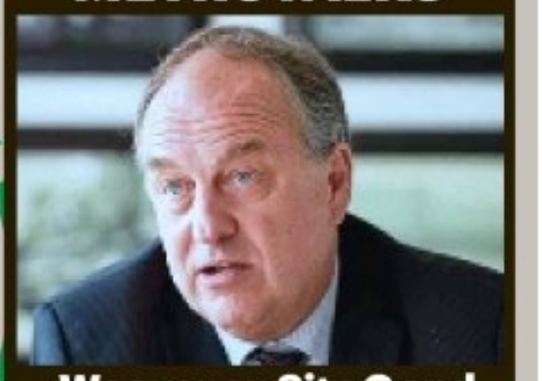

Weaver on Site C and BC Hydro metroNEWS

SHARING IS CARING

(about the environment) The long wait is over metroNEWS

Mayor Gregor Robertson rides a Mobi bike outside city hall Wednesday.
MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

B.C. to embrace transgender rights

HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

Anton says community had not felt protected

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The British Columbia will soon explicitly recognize "gender identity and gender expression" in its Human Rights Code to better protect transgender people.

Attorney General Suzanne Anton said the BC Liberals will table the amendment in the upcoming summer legislative session, after years of lobbying by NDP MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert and transgender advocacy groups.

"As British Columbians, we must ensure everyone in B.C., especially those most likely to face discrimination, are not only protected by the law, but feel they are protected and understand that they are protected," said Anton.

While all people are protected from discrimination under the current Human Rights Code, Anton said not explicitly protecting gender identity and expression in the code has created a lack of understanding within the transgender community.

The Liberals had planned to make the amendment next year, Anton said, but will accelerate their plans.

"It has been a long road but we're getting there," said Chandra Herbert, who accompanied Anton at the announcement. "I wish it passed years ago but I'm going to take the victory now when I can get it. It's the right thing to do. (Transgender people) know their rights are protected in law, in name and right there on paper."

Chandra Herbert first proposed a trans right bill five years ago but could not get the support of government, who argued the current Code was sufficient.

Drew Dennis, co-owner of TransFocus Consulting, applauded the move.

"It's fantastic. B.C. had been one of four provinces that had not amended their Human Rights Code. There was a recognition we had catching up to do on a provincial level," they said.

Dennis said the amendment will clear up any uncertainty — whether inadvertent or otherwise — for employers and prevent situations that could end up in court now that gender identity and expression are explicitly protected.

It could also have a domino effect on other provincial government services.

"It's a key fundamental piece that will help inform other areas under the province's jurisdiction," Dennis said.

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Thousands of indigenous families ineligible for child benefit cheques. **Canada**

At last, bike sharing is here

TRANSPORTATION

Mobi launches with 23 live stations and 250 bicycles

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Public bicycles are docked at a Mobi station along the seawall in southeast False Creek on Wednesday. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson launched the city's first public bike share system Tuesday by breaking through a giant "Mobi" banner on bicycle.

In many ways, his facial expressions during the made-for-television stunt mirrored the roller-coaster of a journey that the city has gone through to make public bikes in Vancouver a reality.

On the mayor's face was first a giddy smile in anticipation of the big moment, then an unsure grimace and the gritting of teeth as he approached the banner at full speed followed by relief and elation that his bicycle tire successfully ripped apart the sign and allowed him to safely cross the plane.

Seven years of excitement, build-up, uncertainty, delays and actualization captured in the span of seconds.

"We have been waiting some years for bike share," Robertson told media after the photo-op. "I never doubted that public bikes would come to Vancouver and Mobi is here. I think it was worth the wait."

The service, touted as North America's largest smart-bike share system, is live after the city's first initial chosen supplier, Montreal-based Bixi, filed for bankruptcy, then the company contracted to run the program, Alta — now called Motivate — was bought out.

After years of delay, Ottawa's CycleHop — which runs public bike shares in Ottawa, Phoenix, Tampa, Santa Monica and Beverly Hills — was finally contracted to operate the service in February.

> **We have been waiting some years for bike share.... I think it was worth the wait.**
> Mayor Gregor Robertson

But even this week's soft launch, for early adopting "founding members" only, fell short of expectations.

Twenty-three stations and 250 bicycles are now available for use, compared to the 150 stations and 1,500 bikes first promised at launch.

The rest, up to 250 stations, will be rolled out gradually throughout the summer.

"There have been some delays to the shipping and now they're going to start arriving in bigger numbers," said Robertson. "By the end of summer, 1,500 bikes, 250 stations. That's where we're heading. In the meantime, we're building up to that. We've got bikes out now and it'll be a good soft launch. I want to make sure the system rolls out smoothly, free of glitches, and I think this is a good way to do that."

Vancouver Bike Share general manager Mia Kohout said 1,300 people have already signed up as founding members, at discounted annual rates of $99 and $129, and those riders are now able to use the system.

Those wanting to try Mobi now instead of waiting for the general public rollout (where daily and monthly passes will be available) later this summer can still sign up as founding members until the end of the month, she said.

Kohout said the city has taken steps to address concerns from bike rental companies that fear the system may put their business at risk.

The bike share system is meant for short one-way commutes for local residents, she said.

"(Mobi) is geared to improve our transportation network, it's not made as a recreational system for tourists," said Kohout. "If you keep a bike longer than 30 minutes, you're going to be dinged for an additional $5 for every half-hour you keep that bike. I think it's important to see that bike share is not the same as bike rentals."

Vancouver Bike Share, a subsidiary of CycleHop, hopes to see 10,000 members using the system by the end of the year.

The service will cost the city $5 million over five years.

The rest of Mobi's operating costs will come from a combination of membership fees and sponsorships, Kohout said.

More information is available at vancouverbikeshare.ca.

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Melanie Matining, community development manager of Heartwood Community Café, prepares for a queer and trans open mic event on Wednesday evening. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Arts spaces being squeezed out

CULTURE

Closure of Heartwood shines light on larger issues

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

When the Heartwood Community Café — an iconic Mount Pleasant eatery and arts venue — shuts its doors on Aug. 15, the loss won't only be felt by its loyal patrons.

As rents climb in Vancouver, other community-run spaces and venues around the city see the loss as a warning sign to everyone providing low-cost or free cultural programming.

"There's a lot of wonderful people in this city working really hard to put together cultural events," said Anthony Meza Wilson at Gallery Gachet, a non-profit offering studio and exhibition space for artists in the Downtown Eastside. "It's demoralizing when you're trying to do good community work in this city.

"You see time and again people squeezed out of their neighbourhoods and not able to meet rent."

Gallery Gachet was recently left scrambling after losing its funding from Vancouver Coastal Health to offer its mental health programming. (The organization is holding a fundraising event to keep their space on Saturday 7 p.m. at 33 West Hastings St.).

For Melanie Matining, Heartwood's community development manager, social and cultural venues are vital to the fabric of the city. She said the struggles of other non-profits like Gallery Gachet and the Red Gate arts venue show that "social spaces are on the decline."

"I wonder where are people going to hang out," she said. "It seems like such a small thing, but it's the small things that let us gather and strengthen community.

"When those spaces are taken away, how do we do relationship-building? They're important because they actually bring people face-to-face."

Meza Wilson cited opinion poll findings that alienation is becoming a top concern for city-dwellers — in a time when "so many don't feel they can have a real sense of community," he said.

"If things don't change, there won't be any cultural spaces left in the city that are accessible for people who have low incomes and provide everyone access to culture."

Heartwood Community Café will host a Making Space panel on Vancouver's social spaces at 7 p.m. on Aug. 3 at 317 East Broadway Ave., followed on Aug. 4 by a community discussion event, also at 7 p.m.

> **We liken it to when Wile E. Coyote runs off a cliff: we just can't look down or we might fall.**
> Anthony Meza Wilson, Gallery Gachet

HEARTWOOD'S HEARTBREAK

'The space was home,' say community café staff

Most businesses would dream of finding patrons as loyal as 317 East Broadway Avenue's.

Many of them stuck with the restaurant after its predecessor, Rhizome Café, closed in 2013.

For years, that business had offered a welcoming place for LGBTQ people, communities of colour and activists for various causes.

"People knew the space was home," said Melanie Matining, "a place where a lot of queer and trans folks could work and feel comfortable, where the leadership has always been women of colour and queer folks from East Van."

After online and word-of-mouth appeals for support, the location re-opened under a new name thanks to funding from local Trinity United Church, which had found itself a homeless congregation after losing their own building due to costs.

"They thought, 'Maybe this is where our fundraising should go — let's give this a try,'" explained the congregation's minister, Rev. Rhian Walker.

But with rents rising and revenue falling short of operating costs, the church decided not to continue funding the social enterprise.

"It's so tricky in this market we have, where land and buildings are worth a lot, but if you're not running a business it's hard to sustain these places," Walker said.

Matining said in social terms, the Heartwood was succeeding — attracting hundreds of community members to poetry nights, musical performances, activist fundraisers and offering an affordable, healthy place to eat.

She said she's especially proud of the pay-what-you-can "soup for the people" menu item.

"It was a shock to a lot of us," she lamented.

"I feel sad about it, obviously. But I'm also perhaps hoping it's able to seed new spaces in town.

"Last week we had a comedy night for comedians of colour — where else in Vancouver can you find that? To know a business could make it their mission to be centred on accessibility and community-building, rather than profit, I feel really proud we had such a strong following."

Heartwood's programs and performances will continue for the next month, and it will host a closing event and performance to showcase the "best of Heartwood" on Aug. 12.

DAVID P. BALL/METRO

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Presumed Poké player leaps on track

CANADA LINE

Transit police are warning gamers to play safely

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

The way the man and his friend were using their phones led transit police to believe they were playing Pokémon Go, although Drennan said that could not be confirmed for sure because the two ran away before transit staff could talk to them.

The man set off an alarm that triggered an incoming train car to do an emergency hard stop. It was a very dangerous move because part of the track is charged with 600 volts, Drennan said.

Many transit stations are hot spots to find Pokémon, and crowds of up to 200 people have been gathering at high-traffic bus loops like Lougheed and Metrotown late at night. Canada Line attendants have seen numerous players standing on station platforms pointing their phones toward the track area.

"We're afraid that people will not watch where they are going, step over the yellow line and perhaps fall into the track," Drennan said.

"We understand this is a phenomenon and want people to have fun with it — but safely."

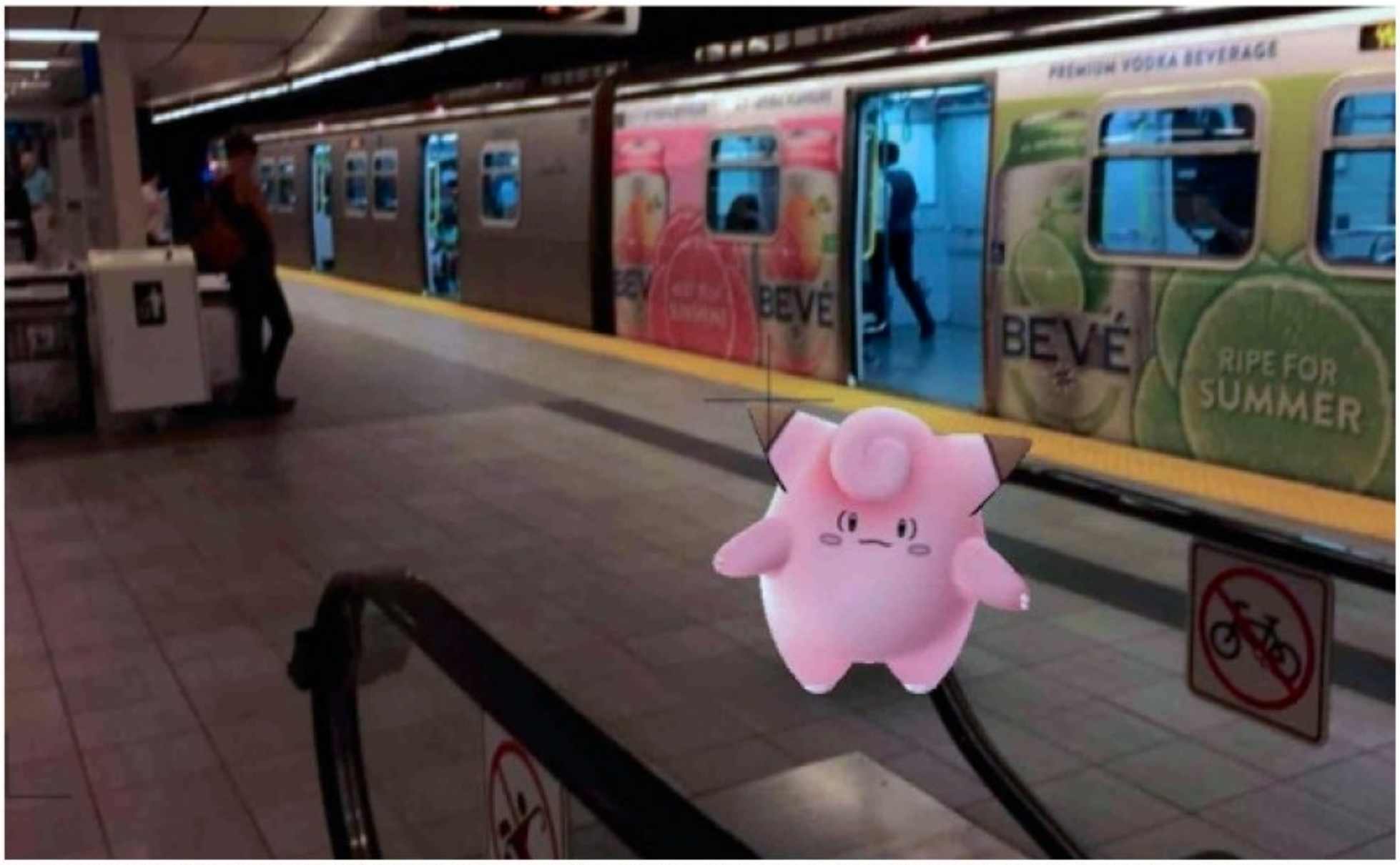
Delta Police are also getting the word out about online safety following a late-night incident on July 13: a 19-year-old woman had arranged to meet a man she had met online at Annieville Lyons Park in Delta to play Pokémon Go.

"She believed she was going to play Pokémon … with this man but when she met up with him, he made some unwanted sexual advances towards her," said Acting Sgt. Sarah Swallow.

Police were able to arrest the 31-year-old New Westminster man and he now faces a charge of sexual assault.

If you are meeting someone you don't know, "meet them in a public, well-lit place," Swallow said.

"You've got to use caution and let people know who you're going to be with and what time you're expected home."



A Clefairy taunts Pokémon Go players at Waterfront Station. Transit police say some players are taking dangerous risks to capture the virtual creatures.
JEN ST. DENIS/METRO

> We're afraid that people will not watch where they are going, step over the yellow line and perhaps fall into the track.
> Anne Drennan

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Police have arrested seven people who occupied an empty apartment building in Burnaby for nearly two weeks to protest recent evictions. ELIOT Z. GALAN/COLLECTIVISTA.ORG

Group calls for end to 'democvictions'

HOUSING

Seven arrested during protest over condo development

Police have arrested seven people who occupied an empty apartment building in Burnaby for nearly two weeks to protest recent evictions making way for a condo development project.

Natalie Knight said she and the others who have been protesting the so-called democvictions were asleep Wednesday morning when about 20 RCMP officers came into the building.

"One of us woke up when they heard the window smash," she said.

The protesters had been living in the building, owned by Amacon Development Corp., for 12 days.

Burnaby RCMP said in a statement that officers were enforcing a court injunction granted last week when protesters were cleared from the building.

"Protesters co-operated with police and there were no issues during the arrests," Sgt. Derek Thibodeau said.

Four people were released at the scene and three, including Knight, were taken to the RCMP detachment.

They were later released after signing an agreement saying they will stay away from the property. The police statement said RCMP are not currently considering criminal charges.

If the protesters break the agreement, however, they may be forced to appear in court on civil contempt charges.

But staying away from the building won't stop the group from fighting for affordable housing, Knight said.

"We're going to continue organizing in the Metrotown area. This isn't going to go away."

The group is calling for an end to democvictions, where apartment buildings that provide affordable rental housing are demolished so new condo towers can be built.

Knight said the city has been rezoning pieces of property where there are currently small apartment buildings offering rental housing.

"What city council has been saying is that there's nothing they can do, that it's a supply and demand problem," she said. "But that's not true at all. City council's role and planners' role is to regulate these things.... What we're asking for is a very simple thing. Stop rezoning."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Cuban softball players still missing after failing to show up to tournament

There's still been no word from a pair of Cuban softball players who failed to show up for the Women's World Softball Championship in Surrey.

A tournament spokeswoman says she notified RCMP when the women did not arrive for the first game on Sunday, and the Canada Border Services Agency is now involved.

Laura Ballance says the women are in the country on a six-month visitor visa and it's unclear if they were trying to defect instead of playing in the 10-day tournament.

A Canada Border Services Agency official says due to privacy concerns, she cannot discuss whether the players have made refugee claims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woman charged after man stabbed to death at reserve

Mounties say a woman is facing a second-degree murder charge following a stabbing on a reserve west of Fort St. James.

Charges were laid Sunday, when Mounties say a 31-year-old man was fatally stabbed at the Tachie reserve. Thirty-three-year-old Annie Jean Anatole has been remanded in custody.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Site C dam fight turns to amphibians

ENVIRONMENT

Removal of animals was illegal: Activists

A tiny tadpole is at the centre of the latest legal fight to stop a massive hydroelectric project in northeastern British Columbia.

An environmental activist with a history of defending amphibians alleges that the provincial government knowingly overstepped its authority when it gave permission in May for BC Hydro to move tadpoles and frogs from a section of the Peace River upstream from the new Site C dam. Water from the area is slated to be removed in order to build dikes.

Josette Wier and Sierra Club BC filed a petition in B.C. Supreme Court on Wednesday, asking for a review into whether the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations followed the law when it exempted BC Hydro from prosecution for relocating the amphibians, which include toads and salamanders.

The action is the latest in a series of legal salvos from First Nations, environmentalists and land owners to block the multi-billion-dollar electricity project that would flood farm land and First Nations hunting and fishing grounds to create the dam and an 83-kilometre-long lake.

The latest petition says a permit is required for such an exemption but a ministry official deliberately issued illegal authorization to avoid possible delays to the dam's construction schedule.

"Amphibians are dear to my heart," Wier said during a phone interview from her home in Smithers. She described the petition as a fight both for the animals and against the Peace River megaproject. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Legal action is the latest salvo in the anti-dam fight. CONTRIBUTED

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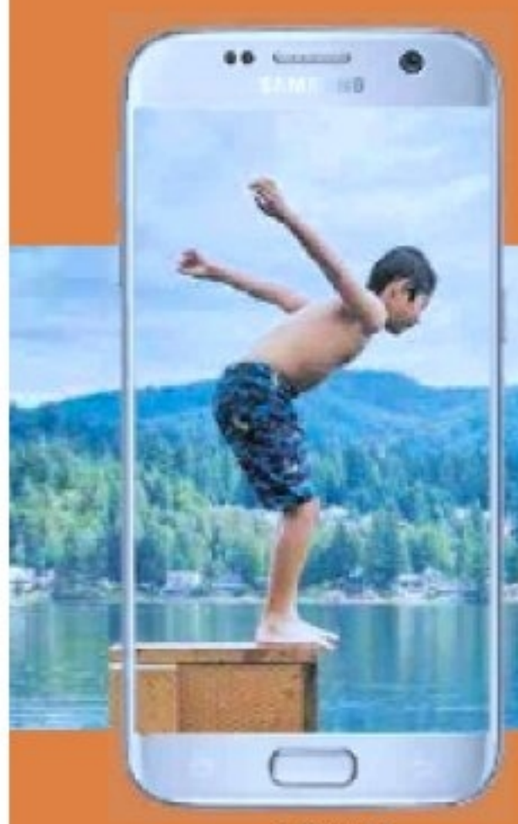

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PRISON

Riot at youth jail in Burnaby: Union

Officials say a riot at a young offenders jail in Burnaby has caused extensive damage.

Inmates started smashing microwaves, windows and other items in a living unit at the Burnaby Youth Detention Centre on Tuesday night, said Dean Purdy with the union representing corrections officers.

The young offenders then broke into a staff area and a second living unit, and continued destroying items, pulling out sprinklers and starting fires, he said.

"They continued to riot on the second living unit for some time, completely destroying windows, tables, microwaves, dishwashers and sprinkler heads, causing a major flood."

He said the union has heard between seven and 10 inmates were responsible for the riot.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Children and Family Development confirmed police and fire crews were called in for a "serious incident" at the detention centre.

The spokesperson said the incident caused "extensive damage," including fire damage, but no one was injured.

Corrections officers have reported high tensions at the jail over the past 18 months, since a similar facility was closed and the inmates transferred to Burnaby, Purdy said.

"This is something we warned them about over a year-and-a-half ago when they closed the Victoria Youth Custody Centre," he said.

"We said at that time that violence would increase and we've seen that over the last year and a half."

Purdy said the union has concerns about whether the riot could have been prevented and will be following up with both the ministry and WorkSafeBC.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **This is something we warned them about over a year-and-a-half ago when they closed the Victoria Youth Custody Centre.**
> Dean Purdy, corrections officers' union

The tailings pond that stores toxic waste from the Mount Polley Mine had its dam break on Monday spilling its contents into the Hazeltine Creek causing a wide water-use ban in the area.
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Revisions aim to eliminate disasters

MINING

Changes emphasize public, worker protection

British Columbia's Mines Minister Bill Bennett says mining code revisions introduced Wednesday include risk-protection requirements to ensure a disaster like the Mount Polley tailings pond collapse never happens again.

In August 2014, a massive tailings dam breached at the mine in B.C.'s Cariboo region, sending 24 million cubic metres of mine waste and water into nearby rivers and lakes.

"What we have done here, and what we'll do in the next few months will prevent a major accident from happening with a tailings storage facility here in B.C.," Bennett said at a news conference Wednesday. "I'm absolutely convinced of that."

He said the changes include design standards for tailings storage facilities tailored to conditions within the province and emphasize public and worker protection.

An independent review of the disaster last year concluded that the tailings dam collapsed because the strength and location of clay underneath the dam was not taken into account during original designs.

Bennett said the mining code updates can't guarantee small leaks or spills from tailings facilities, but the changes include conditions and requirements that go beyond normal industry standards.

B.C.'s chief inspector of mines Al Hoffman said the changes include seven mining code revisions.

Among the changes are requirements in mine permit applications to declare performance objectives that include programs for prediction, identification and management of physical, chemical and other risks associated with tailings facilities and dams.

"We've worked very hard on these code revisions and I think we've filled in a lot of those cracks," said Hoffman. "So, it's very unlikely it will happen again."

But Opposition New Democrat mines critic Norm Macdonald said he remains skeptical about the government's intentions to monitor the mining industry.

"Until we see some intent from government to hold companies to account for failures, we are exactly in the same place we've been since the B.C. Liberals came to power," he said.

"What are the consequences for the company to date? Nothing."

The Mount Polley gold and copper mine, owned by Imperial Metals Corp. (TSX:III), was cleared to resume full operations last month.

B.C.'s Conservation Service, which has the power to recommend criminal charges, is conducting a review of the Mount Polley disaster.

B.C. Mining Association president Karina Brino said there are always risk factors in industrial operations, but the goal is to work towards a zero failure rate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **Until we see some intent from government to hold companies to account for failures, we are exactly in the same place we've been since the B.C. Liberals came to power.** Norm Macdonald

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Crackdown on tax loophole

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

As part of our summer politics series, B.C. Green Party Leader stopped by the Metro office to discuss housing, energy policy, camping and, of course, paintball. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

The B.C. government's recent moves to track real estate data and better police realtor conduct have come so late in the day that those actions will do little to curb the province's out-of-control real estate market, says Green Party MLA Andrew Weaver.

"I've been raising this for two years in the legislature, and the problem is they don't do anything until it's too late," Weaver said during an interview with Metro's editorial team in Vancouver.

Weaver would also like much more attention on a loophole he says is commonly used to avoid paying B.C.'s property transfer tax: property can be held in an entity called a bare trust, and a company formed to act as trustee.

By selling their shares in the company, the property owner can transfer the property without a change in land title.

"I know this is a tool that is used — and it has very legitimate reasons to exist — but it's also a tool that allows for lack of tracking and the government has no idea who's buying and selling, and avoids the property transfer tax," Weaver said.

"It's substantive. If you have a $10-million home, you're talking tens of thousands of dollars."

With the next provincial election still 10 months away, Weaver declined to reveal his party's full platform on the issue.

But he indicated a host of changes are needed to combat speculation in B.C.'s urban housing markets.

While the federal government recently increased the minimum down payment needed for a home that costs between $500,000 and $1 million to 10 per cent, Weaver thinks that is still dangerously low, given the explosion in real estate prices over the past few months.

The province recently moved to allow Vancouver to charge an extra tax on empty homes, but that ability should be extended to other municipalities, Weaver added. And in general, existing real estate legislation needs to be better enforced.

Weaver also took aim at recent changes to a practice that has come to be known as shadow flipping: real estate industry insiders buy a property, and before the deal has closed, assign the contract to another purchaser for a higher price. According to media interviews with realtors, the practice is common in Vancouver and was resulting in some properties being flipped several times, with the price being increased on each flip.

The government recently changed the rules to ensure sellers were consenting to their contract being assigned, and require any profit to be returned to the seller. "Symbolically it sounds like a great idea, but it's going to make no difference because if you want to assign your contract … you can still say you just give me $20,000 in my bank account and I'll give you this contract," Weaver said.

> **"I've been raising this for two years in the legislature, and the problem is they don't do anything until it's too late.**
> Andrew Weaver

Weaver said there was little problem with licensed realtors assigning contracts.

"When it's done through a realtor it's all above board — (it's) when you have retail buyers going out and knocking on doors and they are not registered realtors, they get a contract with a purchaser to buy an home and they start flipping the contract," he said.

The MLA also believes a recent crackdown on "double-ending" — when a realtor represents both the buyer and seller — is wrong-headed.

"I've bought lots of homes over the years that way because I know that if I find a home on the MLS, I have more negotiating power if I use their realtor," he said.

"To remove that ability to double-end a deal hurts the buyer."

B.C. GREEN PARTY'S ANDREW WEAVER

THE CHALLENGE SCIENTIST, POLITICIAN ... PAINTBALLER? Unknown to many (well to Metro's staff anyway), Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver is also an avid paintballer, a sport he was introduced to years ago while coaching his son's soccer team. "It's fun," said Weaver. "It's good exercise. You're in the outdoors and doing stuff with your family." The acclaimed climate scientist says he has issued an ongoing paintball challenge to both the B.C. NDP and B.C. Liberals. We asked who he'd be more afraid of in a paintball fight, Premier Christy Clark or NDP Leader John Horgan. "Neither," said Weaver, "because I know they'd take each other out. They'd literally be in a firefight and I'll just sit there quietly and wait for them to start shooting each other. And I'd win." JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Weaver blasts Site C project

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

British Columbia's first elected Green Party MLA wants to see the province completely retool its energy priorities, starting with BC Hydro.

In an exclusive editorial interview, party leader Andrew Weaver told Metro that the provincial electricity agency could have been tasked with helping B.C. more quickly transition off fossil fuels and create a booming clean energy sector. Instead, because of a restricted mandate he said, BC Hydro has had little choice but pursue large-scale hydroelectric dams like the Site C Clean Energy Project.

"The argument for Site C has always been an economic one," the Oak Bay-Gordon Head MLA said. "There needs to be an investigation about what's gone on here — the economics does not make sense."

The leader of the provincial Legislature's smallest caucus may be alone in Victoria, but as the election approaches he's taking on both the BC Liberals and the Official Opposition and making few friends among either.

"I spent three years alone in the Legislature talking about the reckless economics of Site C," he claimed. "It wasn't until the fall of 2015 that (the New Democratic Party) actually had an opinion on it."

Asked to outline his vision for electricity production in B.C., Weaver cited a range of renewable energy sources, particularly solar, geothermal, wind and small-scale hydroelectric power.

The province already buys from so-called "run-of-river" hydro producers across the province, a BC Liberal policy that has been long-decried by the NDP for giving private electricity producers a foothold in the province's public power utility.

But he said that BC Hydro's "mandate only allows them to build dams." Even the existing dams in operation, Weaver suggested, could be better used as "load levellers," allowing excess power to be stored up "like batteries," which he argued could increase their capacity by up to 30 per cent.

"BC Hydro should get out of the business of producing new power," he argued. "The clean energy sector is dead in B.C. — wind, geothermal, solar, small-scale hydro. They've given up on B.C.

"That industry creates distributed jobs across the province. What should have happened was allow BC Hydro to put a call to see what (price) the market would deliver the power at. It's a travesty — and it's a legacy of this government."

Asked if he truly believes getting B.C. completely off of fossil fuels is realistic, Weaver shot back: "Why not?"

"We have access to renewable energy, fibre and water like nowhere else in the world," he insisted. "Government can show leadership.

"You'll see the transportation sector change very dramatically… The Netherlands, Norway, Denmark and other nations have decreed there be no non-electric vehicles sold in their countries within a varying number of years."

Proposal: B.C. campsites for B.C. residents

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

B.C.'s provincial parks are supported through the tax dollars of B.C. residents — so it makes sense that British Columbians should get first crack at booking scarce spaces, said Green Party MLA Andrew Weaver. Weaver was responding to a recent controversy over campsite scalping. He is also suggesting that sites should be tied to the driver's licence of the person who books the spot.

"I have gone on Craigslist myself and seen people upselling campsites to try to make a profit," he said. "That shouldn't be allowed."

There have also been reports of some tour companies booking in bulk. Weaver tied the campsite crunch to B.C.'s high cost of living: people are increasingly choosing camping as an inexpensive way to take a family vacation, while avoiding travel outside of the country because of the low Canadian dollar. The low dollar has also played a part in encouraging more tourists to visit B.C.

B.C. government statistics show that British Columbians book 75 per cent of spots, while Albertans book 13 per cent; Americans reserve four per cent and international visitors take six per cent of campsite that can be reserved through an online system.

There are different ways the system could be set up to give B.C. residents the first crack at campsites, Weaver said. For instance, there could be a set of bookings released early for B.C. residents only. Weaver doesn't think the strategy would harm B.C.'s tourism sector.

"There are other campgrounds and other tourist opportunities for Americans and others, but ultimately these are our parks," he said. "They are for the enjoyment of British Columbians who pay their taxes to keep these parks in order."

The B.C. government is looking at increasing the number of campsites, better enforcing the current rules and consulting with British Columbians about the issue, according Ministry of Environment staff.

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Indigenous children are missing out on benefits

POVERTY

Thousands on reserves aren't eligible due to no taxes filed

The first monthly Canada child benefit cheques, worth up to $533 per child, went out to more than 3 million homes Wednesday.

But because 18-year-old Chantal Perrault has never filed a tax return, her five-month-old baby Harlow is missing out.

"Wow, that is a lot of money. It would buy a lot of baby formula," she said in a phone interview from Red Gut First Nation reserve near Fort Frances, Ont., where she lives in band housing with Harlow's father, grandparents and two cousins.

Perrault is among thousands of indigenous parents on reserves who don't regularly file tax returns, and therefore aren't eligible to receive the income-based benefit aimed at lifting about 300,000 Canadian children out of poverty.

Chantal Perrault and her five-month-old baby Harlow, from the Red Gut First Nation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The benefit is expected to help about 8,000 indigenous children escape poverty. But 16,000 would be helped if all parents on reserve filed their taxes, The Canadian Press reported.

Indigenous children are twice as likely to live in poverty as non-aboriginal kids, according to a recent study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, which found poverty rates among First Nations children living on reserves are about 60 per cent.

Canada Revenue Agency doesn't track the percentage of tax filers on reserve, but a small 2010 study put the number as high as 50 per cent.

Families with net annual incomes below $30,000 receive the maximum $6,400 a year for each child under age six and $5,400 per child for those from age six through 17.

> **Wow, that is a lot of money. It would buy a lot of baby formula.**
> Chantal Perrault

Numerous government departments are working together to create greater awareness of federal benefits and to held individuals file taxes, said a spokesman for Families, Children and Social Development Minister Jean-Yves Duclos, who is in charge of the program.

"Minister Duclos has discussed this issue with indigenous leaders and has asked Service Canada to reach out to indigenous communities to support access to needed documents," Mathieu Filion added, referring to social insurance numbers and birth certificates. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Halifax city Coun. Gloria McCluskey is catching Pokémon and naming

She's a Halifax councillor

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Long-time councillor and former Dartmouth mayor Gloria McCluskey is claiming a new title: "princess of Pokémon."

I met up with McCluskey in the backyard of her Victoria Road home on Wednesday afternoon to chat about her newfound love of the Pokémon Go app, which she has yet to download but said she's been playing via her son's account.

"I know somebody who walked 5.5 (kilometres) the other day who never walks. It's great," McCluskey said, referring to how players of the game need to move around to catch Pokémon or hatch special eggs.

Although McCluskey said she's not sure what Pokémon she has previously caught, it "wasn't very big."

"Some of them are big and ugly. I'm going to name the councillors

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her colleagues after them. JEFF HARPER/METRO

and 'princess of Pokémon'

after them," McCluskey said.

"I have one for Waye (Mason), it's 'Ratta-something,' " she added with a laugh about the Halifax councillor, a frequent sparring partner across the council table.

She was recently asked if she was the only councillor using the game, at which she scoffed and answered, "I'm the princess of Pokémon."

"No one's on there. I know I'm the coolest one; the oldest but the coolest," McCluskey laughed.

Since no Pokémon were hanging in McCluskey's backyard, I walked down the sunny sidewalk with the councillor towards the closest Poké gym to see if we spotted any along the way.

McCluskey waved to a woman who pulled up in a car as we passed a stop sign, and yelled out that she was playing Pokémon Go. The woman laughed and said, "We are too right now!" as a kid in the passenger seat held up their phone.

FRANCE

Student killed in Nice had 'so much life'

Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Flags at MacEwan University were at half staff Wednesday in remembrance of Mykhaylo Bazelevskyy, known as Misha.

"He had his feet in every single community that he could have, whether it was athletics, student clubs, volunteering or academic endeavours," said Danika McConnell, president of the student's association.

"It seemed like everyone knew his name and knew his face, he was a leader and a friend."

Bazelevskyy, 22, was out to watch the fireworks in Nice, France last Thursday when a man plowed a 19-tonne truck into the crowd gathered to celebrate Bastille Day.

Bazelevskyy was among the 84 killed.

The Ukrainian business student was studying in Edmonton, and was in Nice for a three-week program at the European Innovation Academy, along with four other MacEwan students and a member of the faculty. All others from the school in Nice are safe.

Mykhaylo (Misha) Bazelevskyy EUROPEAN INNOVATION ACADEMY/TWITTER

Although he went missing immediately, his death was confirmed Tuesday by authorities.

Bazelevskyy had embraced student life at MacEwan. He worked as a resident adviser, ran for the cross-country team and served on student government.

In a statement, MacEwan president David Atkinson said the school will continue to offer any assistance they can to Bazelevskyy's family.

"There is no greater loss to a university than a student who has so much life and promise ahead of him."

IN BRIEF

Post-Daesh challenges come into focus

With a military victory over Daesh in sight, Canada and its allies are focusing on what comes next — keeping Iraq together and stopping the spread of terror. Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan were in Washington, where they and heard that the fight against Daesh was going better than expected.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STATSCAN

National crime rate up in 2015

The national crime rate rose three per cent in 2015 — the first increase in 12 years.

There were almost 1.9 million Criminal Code incidents — excluding traffic offences — reported by police last year, about 70,000 more than in 2014, Statistics Canada said Wednesday.

Irvin Waller, a criminology professor at the University of Ottawa, cautioned not to read a lot into the figures.

"I think an uptick, on its own, doesn't mean too much," he said Wednesday.

While the per-capita crime rate grew in 2015, it has generally been on a downward trend since the early 1990s, with the only other increase reported in 2003, Statistics Canada said.

In addition, there were wide provincial differences, with the rate rising 12 per cent in Alberta, staying the same in Ontario and dropping 12 per cent in Prince Edward Island.

National rates of police-reported crime increased for most Criminal Code violations, including homicide, attempted murder, firearms offences, robbery and sexual assault.

Rates for all types of property crimes also increased from the previous year, including fraud, possession of stolen property, identify fraud, theft, and breaking and entering.

The national crime severity index, which measures the volume of reports and how serious they are, rose five per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A law-enforcement officer tries to extinguish a burning American flag on Wednesday in Cleveland, during the third day of the Republican convention. JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Convention sees fiercest protest day

U.S. ELECTION

17 arrested as officers face assaults: Police

Police arrested 17 people Wednesday after a melee broke out during a flag-burning in the streets outside the Republican National Convention.

It was the most turbulent protest since the four-day convention began on Monday. The chaos briefly prevented delegates and members of the media from getting into the Quicken Loans Arena for the proceedings.

Among those arrested was Gregory "Joey" Johnson, whose torching of the flag three decades ago led to the Supreme Court decision that said flag-burning is protected speech.

Two officers were assaulted and suffered minor injuries, police said. Two of those arrested were charged with felonious assault on a police officer, the rest with failure to disperse.

Police Chief Calvin Williams said a protester whose pants caught fire got defensive when a police officer tried to put out the blaze. The man assaulted the officer, and "things escalated from there," Williams said.

The melee brought to 22 the number of people arrested during the convention, far fewer than some had feared.

Moments after the flag was set on fire, officers charged in to put it out with an extinguishing spray that some in the crowd thought was pepper spray.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PLAGIARISM ALLEGATIONS

Speechwriter admits error

A speechwriter for Donald Trump's company said Wednesday she made a mistake in using passages from a 2008 Michelle Obama speech in the Republican Party convention speech delivered by Melania Trump.

In a statement issued by the campaign, Meredith McIver took the blame but made it clear that Mrs. Trump knew the passages were from the first lady's speech.

Questions about plagiarism hung over the opening days of the convention. The statement came after the campaign spent two days insisting that it wasn't plagiarism and calling criticism absurd. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAY 3

This guy wants to be vice-president

Michael D. Landingham
STEVEN GOETZ/FOR METRO

Michael D. Landingham says Donald Trump could still unite the country if he swapped his running mate Mike Pence for … Michael D. Landingham.

The Cleveland native was in the streets Tuesday talking to anyone who would listen.

"A young black man like myself there would bring people together," Landingham said. "Someone who knows about the struggles between police and African-Americans."

He said he wasn't sure what Trump actually stood for beyond building a wall and opening a new investigation into 9/11.

"I want to say right off the bat, we would have to discuss some things, probably over dinner and a glass of wine," he said.

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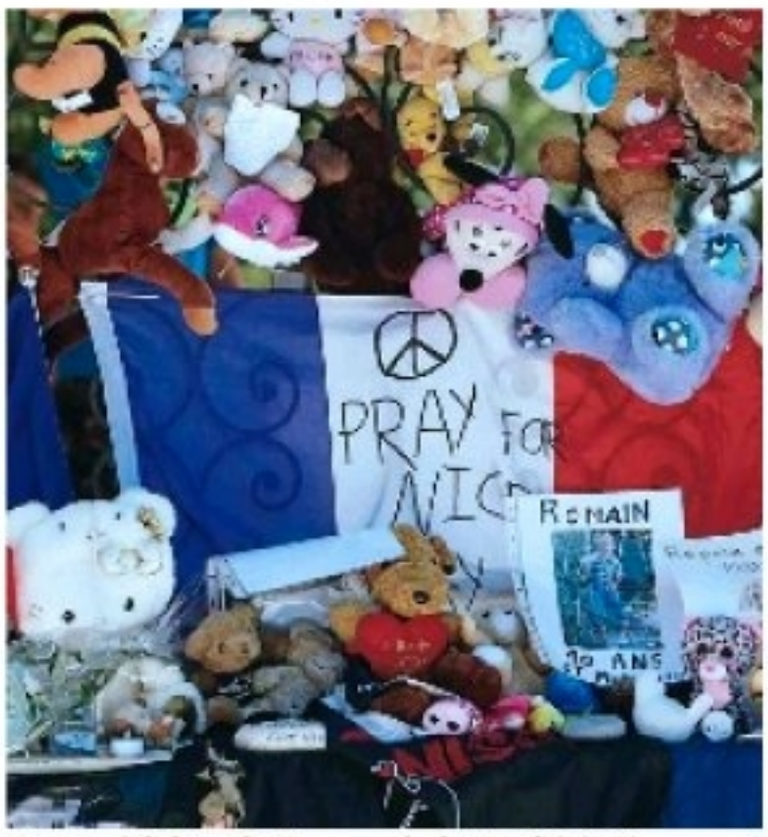
Many Nice dead were Muslims and foreigners

FRANCE

Of 84 killed, 38 were from 19 different countries



A memorial along the Promenade des Anglais in Nice, southern France, on Wednesday. CLAUDE PARIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Now that the last bodies from the Bastille Day attack have been identified by authorities, it is clear that although the carnage happened on French soil, it disproportionately affected tourists and Muslims.

Among the 84 dead, 38 were from 19 different countries, announced the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They were from as close as Italy and Algeria and as far away as Madagascar and Brazil, and included Ukrainian citizen Mykhaylo Bazelevskyy, who had permanent resident status in Canada as a student. If the 200 wounded are included, the number of countries rises to 29, said a ministry spokesman, Romain Nadal.

No official count of Muslim victims exists, but Samy Boubakri, an imam at the Bon Voyage Mosque in Nice, says there were at least 25 Muslims from the local community among the victims. That number rises to 35 if foreign Muslims are included, he said.

"Muslims make up only seven per cent of the population of France, but at least 30 per cent of the victims of the attack," he said.

Ever since the morning after the attacks, senior members of the Islamic community have been present at the hospitals to console victims' families, lead prayers and offer counselling. Boubakri put his cellphone number on Facebook and promised to answer 24 hours a day.

Beyond spiritual support, the imams have had to step into an unexpected role: defending Islam from angry members of the public who accuse it of being the cause of terrorism.

"It hurts me when people tell me to go back to where I came from. I was born in France, grew up in France. I was educated in France. What do we have to do to finally be accepted as French?" asked Boubakri, who is also a member of the regional Union of Independent Islamic Institutions.

As 42,000 people gathered on the Promenade des Anglais on Monday for a moment of silence, tensions continued to flare. Several acrimonious exchanges between Muslims and non-Muslims were caught on video and posted to Twitter, going viral in minutes.

A small group of people booed Prime Minister Manuel Valls, calling him an "assassin" for failing to assure adequate security for the Bastille Day celebrations.

The state of emergency, which has been in force since the Paris attacks, was scheduled to be lifted next week, but it was extended six months.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MIDDLE EAST

Turkey declares a state of emergency in wake of coup

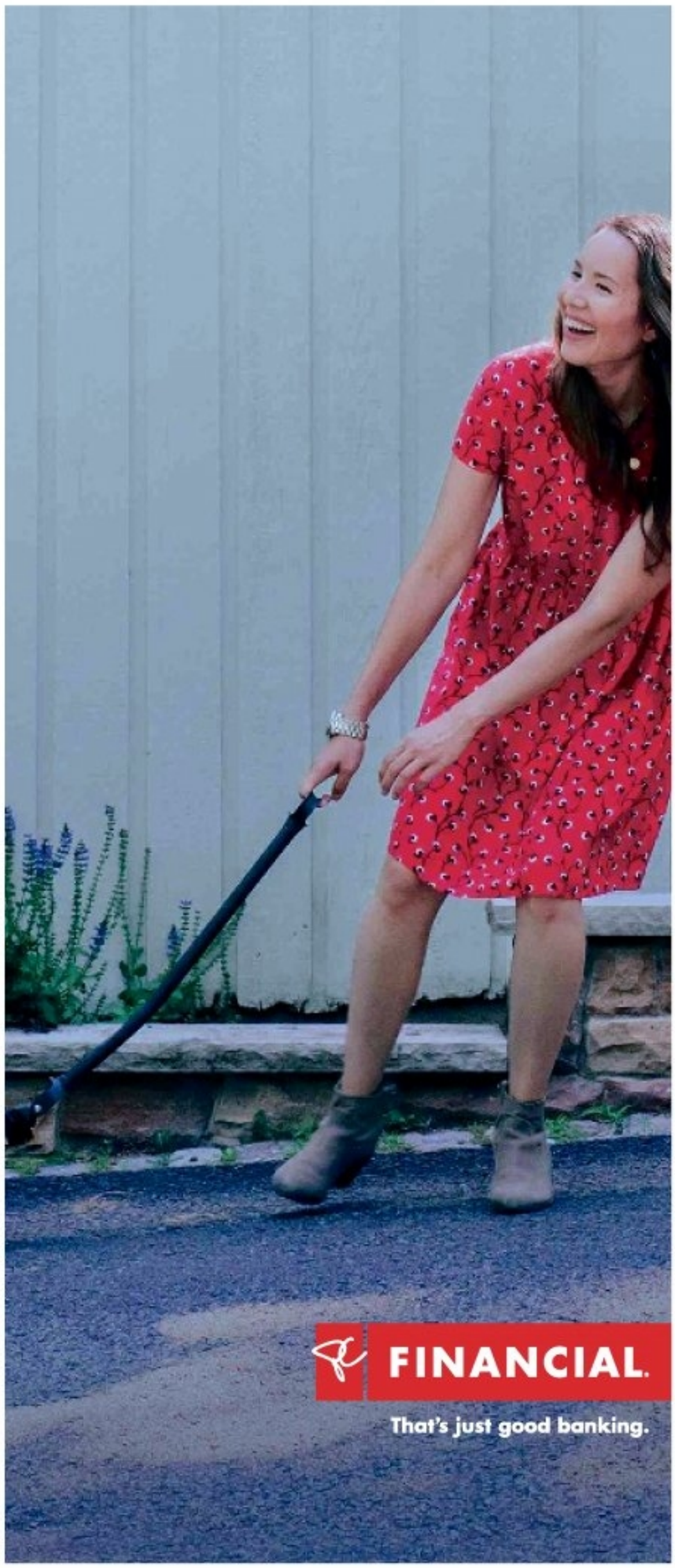
Turkey's president on Wednesday declared a three-month state of emergency following a botched coup attempt, declaring he would rid the military of the "virus" of subversion and giving the government sweeping powers to expand a crackdown that has already included mass arrests and the closure of hundreds of schools.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was accused of autocratic conduct before the insurrection, said the measure would counter threats to Turkish democracy. Possibly anticipating investor jitters, Erdogan criticized Standard & Poor's for downgrading its credit rating for Turkey deeper into "junk" status and said the country would remain financially disciplined.

The president did not announce details, but the security measure could facilitate longer detentions for many of the nearly 10,000 people who have been rounded up.

Access to the Wikileaks website in Turkey has also been blocked after a group announced that it would release documents on the country's power structure.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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FRANCE CONTROVERSIAL LABOUR BILL FORCED THROUGH PARLIAMENT
Protesters hold placards reading "Everybody hates the labour law" in Paris earlier this month. France adopted a deeply divisive labour bill Wednesday after the government used a special measure to force it through Parliament without a vote, ending months of often violent protests and damaging political division. Prime Minister Manuel Valls argued in Parliament that the bill — which weakens union powers, makes layoffs easier and extends the work week — is necessary to create jobs and make the economy more competitive. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Freer trade tops premiers meeting

WHITEHORSE, YUKON

Interprovincial deal close, says Christy Clark

B.C. Premier Christy Clark, President of the Native Women's Association Dawn Lavell-Harvard and Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall at the meeting of premiers in Whitehorse, Yukon. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Provincial and territorial premiers say there's a high degree of support for an inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.

The premiers are in Whitehorse for their annual summer meeting. They were talking with aboriginal leaders on Wednesday before two days of discussions about other issues which are expected to include freer trade across jurisdictional boundaries.

Host premier Darrell Pasloski said Tuesday the leaders are focused on an agreement that would allow provinces and territories to do business with each other in the same way Canada trades with other countries with which it has free-trade deals.

"It's ridiculous you can't buy B.C. wine in Ontario when you can buy it almost anywhere else around the world," said British Columbia Premier Christy Clark.

Clark said the interprovincial deal is close, but only after intense negotiations.

"President (Barack) Obama says democracy means compromising even when you are 100 per cent right," she said. "And what's happened around the table is every province has been convinced they're 100 per cent right, but nonetheless has found a way to compromise."

B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan signed their own free-trade alliance, the New West Partnership, in 2010 to improve labour mobility and cut bureaucracy. It was fully implemented in 2013. The premiers are also expected to discuss health care, climate change and pension reform.

Political scientist Hamish Telford said the meetings allow the premiers to map strategy and coordinate their approaches to the federal government on issues. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DISCOUNT TRAVEL

NewLeaf airline allows bids on unsold seats

Canada's newest discount airline says it will let travellers bid on unsold seats.

NewLeaf says the idea is part of a partnership with Calgary-based company Jump On Flyaways.

Roger Jewitt, CEO of Jump On, says there are a lot of airline seats that fly empty every year because airlines use complicated revenue management techniques to maximize their seat revenue. He says Jump On's business model is to collect bids on the potentially unsold seats, and let the airlines consider the best bid.

He says it is conceivable a person could be the only bidder on a particular seat and get the flight for $1, though the company's website notes air travel partners will consider "reasonable" bids and can decline them.

Jump On opened its online portal for NewLeaf's 11 routes on July 19. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOOD

Listeria fear prompts hot dog, corn dog recall
More than 372,000 pounds of hot dogs and corn dogs made between July 10 and 13 are being recalled over concerns of listeria contamination.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says Bar-S Foods is recalling five chicken and pork products, including bun-length and classic franks made with chicken and pork, classic corn dogs and Signature Pick 5 corn dogs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, July 21, 2016

GILBERT NGABO ON CANADA'S GOOD EXAMPLE

The immigration tradition we've built in this country is special and has made us a model for the world, but it could fall apart if we don't work to maintain it.

There's a primary school in western Berlin where certain students are obliged to come in later and leave earlier than other students.

That group is composed of children of recent immigrants, mainly refugees from Syria, Eritrea, Iraq and Afghanistan. They're members of what's known in German education circles as "welcome classes."

When I and 17 other international journalists visited the school late last month — part of a conference on an invitation from the German Federal Foreign Office to learn about the country's immigration and integration policies — a welcome-class teacher explained the bizarre scheduling: others at the school "are afraid" of the unknown. Because the new kids are immigrants and don't speak German yet, they're completely separated from other students at school, to avoid any potential conflicts.

To me, that stood in contrast to what integration efforts look like in Canada. In Toronto, I've met with and reported on Syrian refugees, and I've seen how kids thrive studying and socializing with other children. The welcome-classes suggested to me that the immigration tradition we've built in Canada, which is special and has made us a model for the rest of the world, could fall apart if we don't work to maintain it. If separating schoolchildren could become necessary in Germany — a prosperous liberal democracy whose population is 20 per cent recent immigrants, a country that has opened its doors to about a million Syrian refugees — it could happen here.

There are dangerous sentiments in this country, and we do ourselves no favours by ignoring them.

Having lived in Toronto for the past six years, I'm used to seeing a true picture of multiculturalism. Stand at any corner of the downtown street, and you're likely to see Asian, black, Indian, Caucasian or Arab people. That isn't a common sight on a Berlin street. Every time I took a stroll around, it was easy to feel like a stranger, except once when I stumbled upon a group of guys watching soccer at a makeshift beach on a sidewalk, which I quickly joined. Sports has a way of easing things. How uncomfortable would a Syrian male, who speaks no German and no English, feel on such streets?

A woman holds a placard during a Pegida demonstration in February. Far-right movements are ascendant all over Europe. AP

Other factors would create discomfort, too. In Dresden, a city 200 kilometres south of Berlin, a radical movement, Pegida, is ascendant. Known for its inflammatory rhetoric against what its ringleaders call "Islamization" of the West, the group has, since its modest Facebook launch in 2014, attracted hundreds of thousands of active followers on its social media. Every Monday morning, no less than 2,000 people storm the city's streets, spreading xenophobic and Islamophobic messages: "Stop Islamization of Europe." "Rape culture is being imported." "Stop the invasion." "Refugees, go home."

If you want to dismiss them as just a bunch of rogue members of the society, think again. Political science professor Werner Patzelt of Dresden Technical University, who recently published a book about the movement, believes Pegida has grown as a result of the country's failure to secure social coherence on immigration and integration matters. He says Pegida has derived even more legitimacy, in the eyes of ordinary citizens, from the growing number of terrorist attacks, especially when someone of an immigrant background is involved. The fear produced by the attacks is powerful.

And the fear lives here, too. Yes, it's true that when Canada recently worked around the clock to bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees, the policy was met internally with more public applause than criticism. And it's also true that my fellow delegates at the week-long conference in Germany marvelled when I told them of the many local community initiatives working to make refugees feel welcome and fully integrated in Canada. But what I didn't mention there were the occasional racist incidents: a hijab-wearing woman being assaulted, a mosque being torched, people being told to "go back" wherever they came from.

By and large, we do a great and enviable job of making immigrants feel welcome, but we don't always do a great job of admitting, either to ourselves or to the rest of the world, the ways in which we fall short. We may not have politicians openly calling for the building of an actual border wall or the deportation of Muslims. We may not have schools openly cordoning off refugee students from other kids. We may not have large public assemblies against immigration. But there are dangerous sentiments in this country, just as there are anywhere else, and we do ourselves no favours by ignoring them.

There's no reason why what is now a small, hateful minority could not, under certain circumstances, or given a certain chain of events, gain wider influence. Terrorist attacks on our own soil, an uptick in homegrown radicalization, a Trump presidency south of the border — any or all of these could have negative impacts on Canada's overall attitude towards immigration.

It's up to every one of us to continue maintaining a uniquely Canadian system that is the envy of the world.

Gilbert Ngabo is a reporter for Metro Toronto

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

For indigenous women, the pain of daily life can't be conveyed in statistics

Last month, on June 8, a new and much-lauded survey charted what one indigenous activist called "a growing awareness" among Canadians of indigenous issues.

"Sympathy for aboriginals rising: survey" read The Globe and Mail's headline, adding that three quarters of Canadians want to "see social and economic disparities addressed."

That same day, news broke in Calgary of body parts found in a park. They would turn out to be part of the remains of Joey English, a 25-year-old indigenous woman.

Police have not ruled her death a homicide. Instead, a man, Joshua Jordan Weise, stands accused of offering an indignity to human remains. It's alleged English died in his home and he dismembered her body and sought to hide it. Police have not yet said how she died.

Stephanie, English's mother, says she feels betrayed by the justice system. She criticized the prosecutor for allowing Weise out on bail and she's launched a "Justice for Joey English" group.

"There is no compassion to how it's being done," she told me. "I honestly believe if we were white, our case would have been dealt with and we would have closure."

She still has not received her daughter's remains, in order to bury them.

And while she has praise for Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Stephanie says she was "brushed away" by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau when she tried to tell him about her daughter's case at an event in Calgary over the weekend.

"I don't need his apologies. He can give those to my mother and the ones who went to residential school. What he can do is really look at my granddaughter, and ask if this is going to happen to my granddaughter when she grows up."

The loss in the English family has been great. Joey's sister died of what police deemed suicide. Two other family members were murdered, and two more died from suicide, according to Joey's cousin, Brailon English. Stephanie told me she believes her daughter would still be alive if she'd received more help to treat an addiction.

"Now I sit in that category where my girls are statistics," she says. "That is so heartbreaking."

Statistics — of violence, incarceration, education, health and poverty of Canada's Indigenous — are often what we see. Individual stories don't often break out into the national consciousness. Joey English has not been a national news story. But she and her family are part of the actual lives and pain that we choose to talk about in numbers, a tactic that defangs, sanitizes, and silences their stories.

Their stories are one to listen to, carefully. They tell not just of suffering but of well-earned distrust.

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She said yes: Supermodel Miranda Kerr is engaged to Snapchat co-founder and CEO Evan Spiegel

LGBTQ fiction with a twist

LITERATURE

Canadian fan authors find mainstream success at last

Genna Buck
Metro Canada

For years, Michelle Osgood spent her weekends and evenings writing online stories based on the MTV series Teen Wolf, dreaming of getting published one day.

Then the 27-year-old full-time secretary visited a friend's cute apartment. She started thinking about the kind of character who would live there — and her first original work of fiction was born.

The resulting novel, The Better to Kiss You With, came out in April. It shares elements with her fanfiction: It's a Vancouver-set paranormal lesbian romance, with plenty of werewolves.

"I probably would not have even tried a mainstream publisher," Osgood said.

She turned to Interlude Press, which was founded specifically to help writers like her, with a following online, to cross over to the broader world of books.

Veteran ghostwriter and editor Annie Harper started Interlude in 2014 with two fellow superfans she met on Tumblr, reading and writing fanfiction based on the TV show Glee.

She got the idea at a conference after an executive from Simon & Schuster said fanfiction was telling publishers what people want to read, but aren't getting — that it's a harbinger of literary trends to come.

Interlude doesn't print fanfiction scrubbed of references to source material, à la Fifty Shades of Grey. Its stories draw from the traditions of fanfiction: LGBTQ romance, references to geek culture and, in the works for adults, a fair amount of explicit sex.

"Fanfiction authors tend to take greater risks. They have so much freedom," Harper said. "A lot of authors with deals are frequently told to diminish or downplay LGBTQ characters."

All Interlude books have LGBTQ themes of some sort, and though the stories contain their fair share of angst, the publisher has a happy-endings-only policy.

The company's young-adult imprint, Duet, recently partnered up with the suicide-prevention charity The Trevor Project on an initiative to get 1,000 copies of The Rules of Ever After, one of its most acclaimed titles, into libraries around the U.S.

Interlude Press, which has its roots in fanfiction but has grown into a bricks-and-mortar publisher, prints positive LGBTQ stories by authors from around the world, including Canadians Naomi MacKenzie and Michelle Osgood. CONTRIBUTED

Positive LGBTQ stories that don't dwell on sexuality are incredibly important to young queer people, but libraries often don't stock them because they seem to rarely get checked out, Harper explained. Librarians tell her that's not the case: Because of stigma, people read the books in the library, or sneak them out without stopping at the desk.

"Coming-out stories are great, but every story shouldn't' have to be a coming-out story," says Interlude author Naomi MacKenzie, 38, a former photographer who lives with her two teenage sons in Mississauga, Ont.

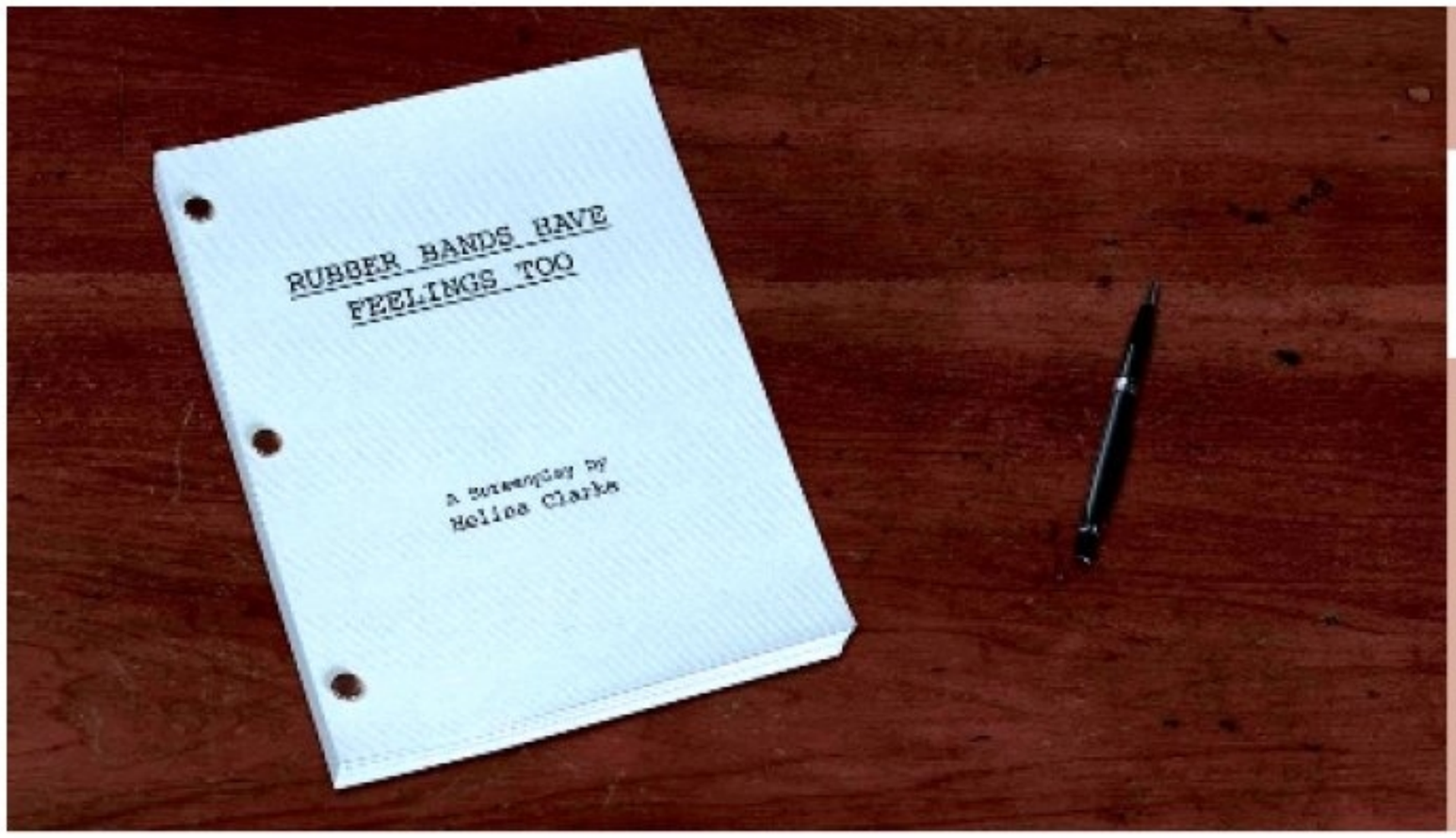
> **There are so many great fanfiction authors out there who have trouble getting recognition from publishing houses.**
> Michelle Osgood, novelist

MacKenzie's young adult novel Lodestones, inspired by her childhood in rural New Brunswick, is a comedy with a huge cast of diverse characters and a romance between two men.

She has written fanfiction for more than a decade, mostly in the worlds of Glee and Harry Potter, but this was her first experience of a rigorous, and she says somewhat tedious, editing process that made her book better.

Osgood, on the other hand, studied English in university and said she "doesn't mind red pen" all over her work.

She's already at work on a sequel. All she'll say about it now is, "It involves a character who shows up at the end."



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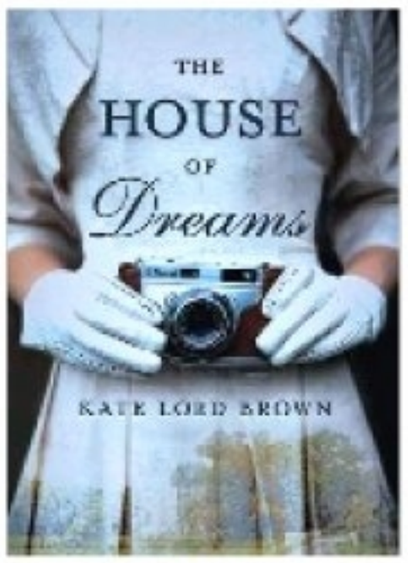
5 NOVELS FOR ART LOVERS TO ESCAPE IN

Art provides the perfect background for fictional narrative — a literal canvas that sparks the imagination and provides a setting and background. Call this fan fiction for the art brigade. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

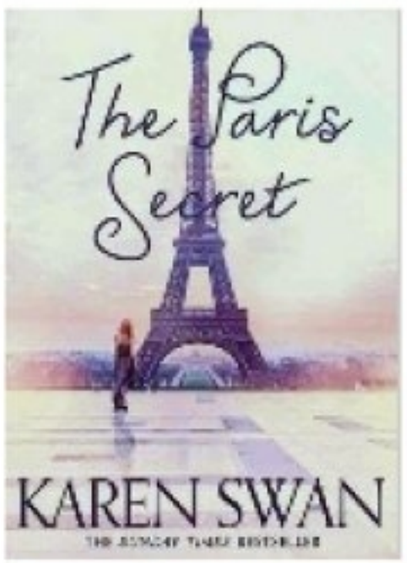
1 The Last Painting of Sara de Vos

Dominic Smith's novel fuses three stories spanning 400 years, all connected to a 1636 painting by Sara de Vos. In 1957, the painting is stolen and replaced with a fake by Ellie Shipley, a young art historian. Flash forward to 2000: Ellie is curating an exhibit when she learns to her horror that both the original and forgery are on their way.



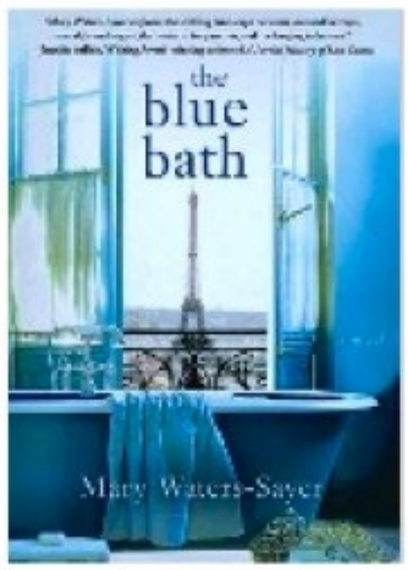
2 The House of Dreams

Kate Lord Brown uses real-life American journalist Varian Fry, who helped anti-Nazi and Jewish intellectuals and artists escape from France during the Second World War as the inspiration for an intriguing story to bridge past (1940) and near present (2000) in this novel.



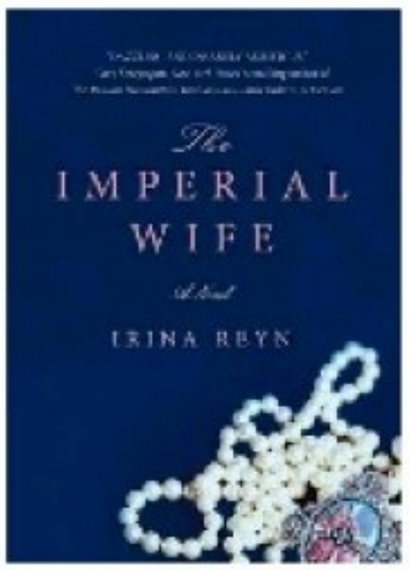
3 The Paris Secret

Fine-art agent Flora Sykes discovers masterpieces in a Paris apartment locked since 1943. The discovery leads her to Vienna and back in time to the dark years of the war. This is the Karen Swan's 10th novel: a winning blend of romance and mystery, with a few hairpin turns.



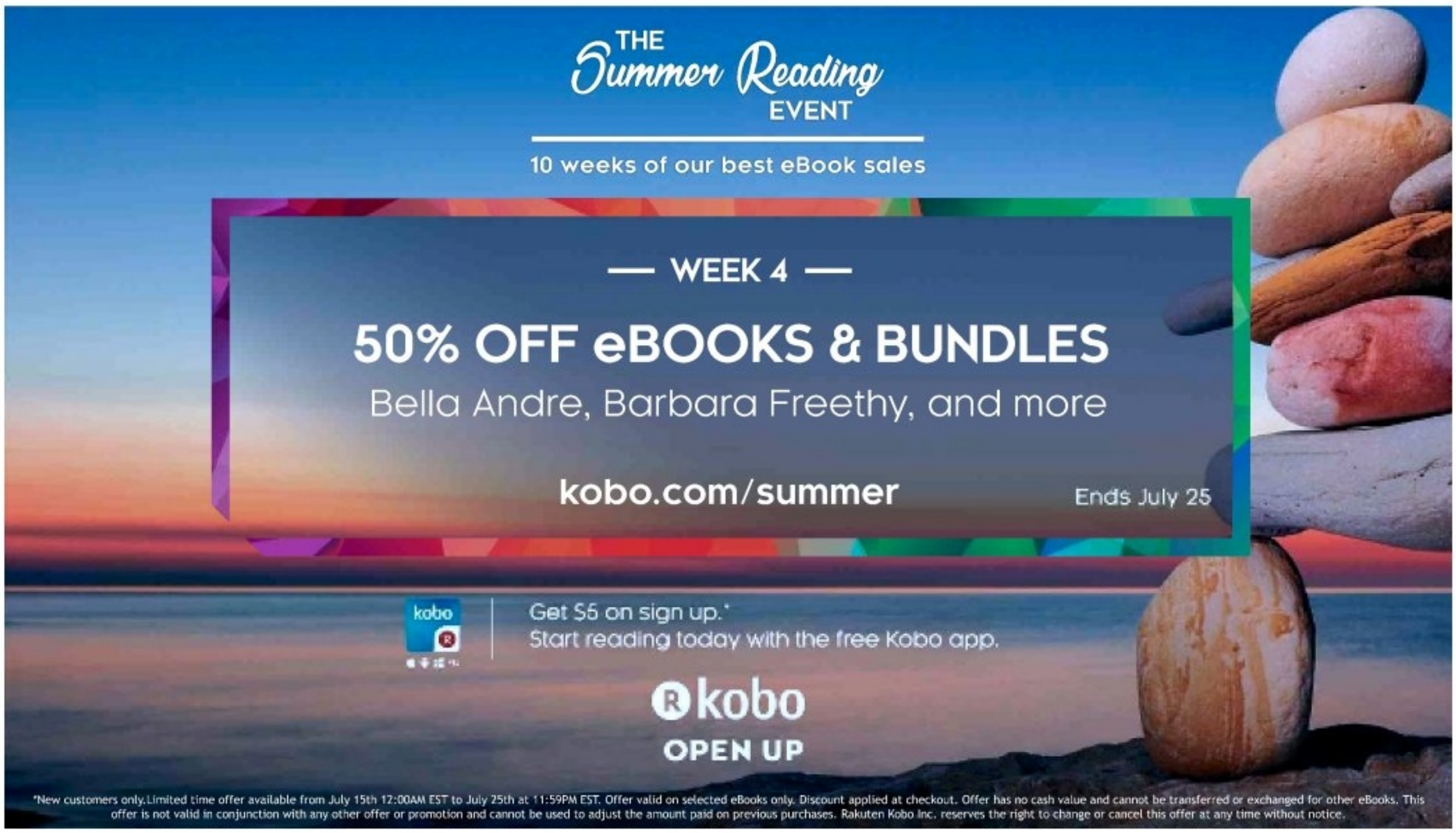
4 The Blue Bath

Protagonist Kat Lind has a love affair with a struggling young British artist named Daniel Blake in Paris. Now, 20 years later, she is married, and learns Daniel has a one-man show. She attends to learn every painting features her as his muse. This is Mary Waters-Sayer's first novel.



5 The Imperial Wife

Irina Reyn's book unfolds in alternating chapters, one narrated by Tanya Kagan, a Russian-art expert; the other, beginning in 1744, narrated by "Sophie Fredericka Augusta," who became Catherine the Great. A cunning tale of ambition and art.



Women's fiction is still fighting for equality

GENDER ISSUES

Serious works still sometimes struggle for true acclaim

Valley of the Dolls is considered a pioneering novel about the female experience. CONTRIBUTED

Fifty years ago, when Jacqueline Susann's Valley of the Dolls was published, it forced people to open their eyes to the fact that women could be just as imperfect — and debauched — as men.

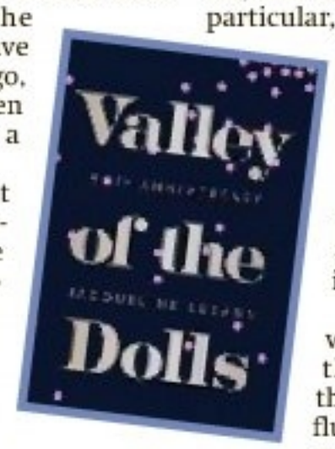
Male authors had written about drugs — think William S. Burroughs in Junkie — but weren't met with such zealous contempt. (Critic John Simon called Dolls "a piece of trash," among other things.) Nor did they achieve such wild, and instant, commercial success.

Perhaps that was where it started. Male authors got the critical acclaim — but the books by women, about women, made the big money. Somehow, this was taken to mean they were less serious.

There was a recent fracas in the publishing world over the covers of Elena Ferrante's very popular Neapolitan novels — about how they look like typical romances even though the contents of the novel are well-written and meaningful. The conclusion was that it was ironic. Sandra Ozzola, Ferrante's publisher and co-art director, told Slate: "Many people didn't understand the game we're playing . . . of . . . dressing an extremely refined story with a touch of vulgarity."

The point being: if men or women want to read this very literary work, they're going to have to suffer through holding a book that looks like a drug-store romance. Or they're going to be excluded from reading it.

Where does this leave women who genuinely like the kind of fiction considered so lowbrow that higher literary minds are using it to make a point? And why, in a world where we don't suffer gender biases gladly are women being handed books with covers that are the equivalent of a Disney princess dress on Christmas morning? What a book such as Valley of the Dolls might have proven, long ago, was what women really want is a slingshot.



And why can't we at least attempt to make it OK for men to read books by women, about women?

"We are limited by our own sexism, a sexism that keeps men from reading stories about women and recognizing them as important, and keeps women from recognizing our own stories as important and valuable," says New York Times bestselling author Eleanor Brown, who wrote The Weird Sisters and, recently, The Light of Paris.

Authors such as Jacqueline Susann were pioneers in telling the truth about the female experience in the world. In showing a dark side, they helped bring us equality.

"Women's work has traditionally been seen as less-than, as craft as opposed to art, and women's fiction, in particular, has been defined as both small and personal," says internationally bestselling author Jennifer Weiner, who has long been an advocate of gender equality in literature.

The authors who wrote the books that first alerted the world to the influence female readers could have need to continue to have a voice. Sylvia Plath in The Bell Jar wrote the searing truth about a mental illness she eventually succumbed to, and was dismissed as "girlish."

"If you are a literary female writer who's tempted to separate herself from the pink-cover pack by saying, "Oh, I don't read those books" or "my work isn't like their work" take a giant step back and consider the history," says Weiner.

"You don't look any taller if you've got your foot on someone else's neck."

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WORKS OF WOMEN'S FICTION

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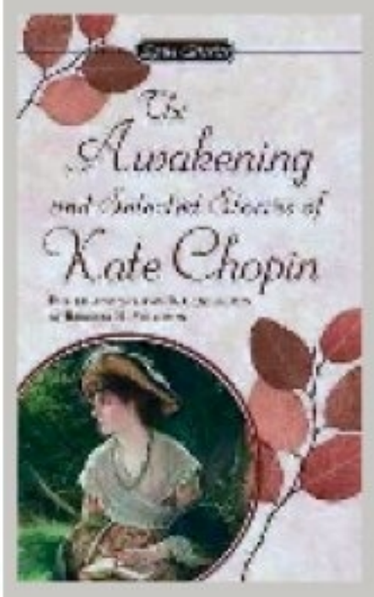
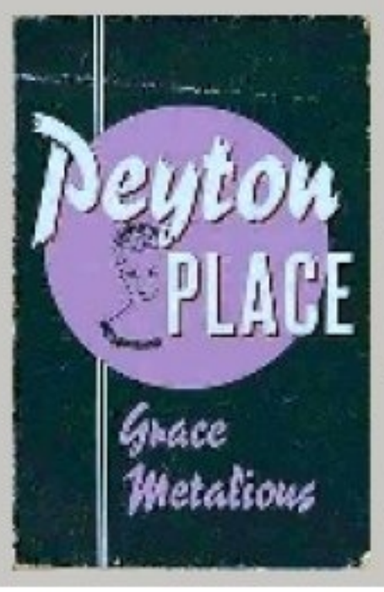


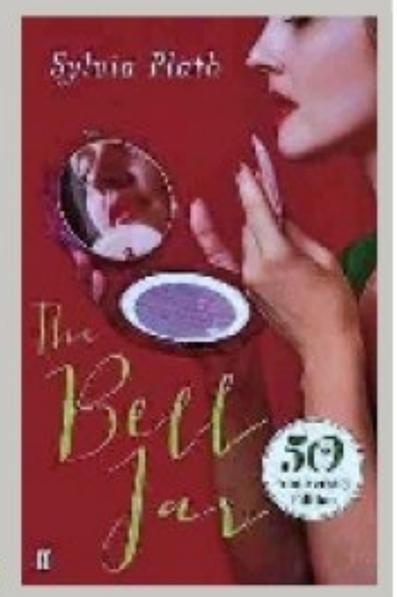
The Awakening by Kate Chopin

Originally called A Solitary Soul, this book was first published in 1899, so perhaps it's no surprise that it was met with such incredulous alarm. Sadly for Chopin, the subject matter — a woman who abandons her husband and children in the midst of a search for herself — was so off-putting that, although it wasn't banned, the content was censored and reviewers were vitriolic.

Peyton Place by Grace Metalious

First published in 1956, Peyton Place was bought by millions of Americans, but many of them put paper over the cover because it was seen to be so inflammatory, wicked and disgraceful. About the secrets contained in a small New Hampshire town, the novel was disdained by critiques in a myriad of ways — but it was a ground-breaking novel that dealt with weighty topics such as abortion and adultery in a new way.





The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

Howard Moss of the New Yorker called Plath's writing "girlish" and "amateur" but the staying power of this disturbing 1963 novel, written about a descent into madness by a woman experiencing it herself, has easily transcended such flippant interpretations. Its importance lies in its rawness and realness. Not long after the book was released, Plath committed suicide.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What to do when you move to Washington?

INTERVIEW

Writer Jennifer Close pulls from own life in new novel

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

As the Republican Convention in Cleveland dominates headlines and late-night talk-show chatter, for many Washington, D.C., politicos currently working for President Obama, the event marks another kind of personal milestone.

Regardless of who is elected the next American president in October, many staffers will be leaving their jobs, or the city, or politics altogether. Washington author Jennifer Close compares the feeling in the Capitol right now to senior year in college.

"There's a lot of nostalgia already happening, and so many goodbye parties," says Close. "It's the feeling of 'this is the end,' and a whole new group of people will come in, which is so weird about the city."

Close's observations of living in Washington, D.C., are at the centre of her entertaining new novel, The Hopefuls.

After the release of her debut novel, Girls in White Dresses, about a tight-knit trio of women in search of happily ever after, Close had a hard time convincing people that the book wasn't a thinly veiled personal story. With The Hopefuls, she is open about her inspirations: the city and people of Washington.

After Close, a former Condé Nast editor, left New York for D.C. to support her husband as he worked on Barack Obama's first presidential campaign, she found the transition to the new city difficult.

But while she initially disliked her new home and its dominating political culture, she also found it fascinating. And so she began writing a story about a group of characters living in the world's most powerful city, which would eventually become The Hopefuls.

"The first thing I wrote for the book is a rant about how much the character hates D.C.," Close says.

"I think that was really therapeutic for me."

The book's protagonist, Beth, is also a journalist who follows her politically ambitious husband, Matt, to the Capitol. Beth has a long checklist of things she hates about the city: the relentlessly humid weather, the uniform Ann Taylor dresses, the driving culture and the lack of decent bodegas.

Most of all, she is both bored and frustrated with the fact that it's impossible to have a social conversation that doesn't involve politics or BlackBerries.

Beth is inches away from a full-on meltdown when they meet charismatic White House staffer Jimmy, and his wife Ashleigh. The two couples immediately bond, but when Matt becomes Jimmy's campaign manager, ego and ambition creeps into the friendship.

Close's own transition was not as painful as Beth's, in part because she began teaching creative writing at George Washington University (Beth ends up working for a Gawker-style online gossip magazine). She also met a group of women from outside the political circle, and found support in fellow non-political spouses. Even though six years later, she now thinks of Washington as home, she knew her book needed to capture her original outsider's perspective.

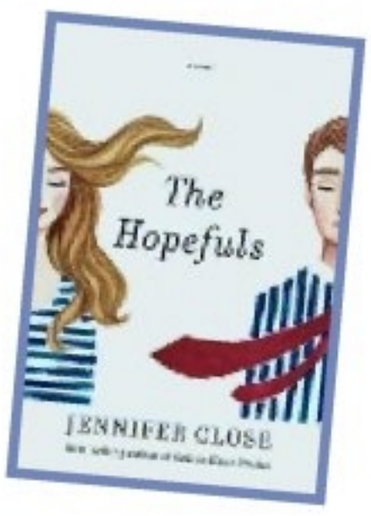
"I was really interested in this world," Close says. "A lot of people will never get to see it."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Jennifer Close, who lives in Washington D.C., took from her own experience moving from NYC to the U.S. capital for The Hopefuls. CONTRIBUTED

"It's the feeling of 'this is the end,' and a whole new group of people will come in, which is so weird about the city.

Jennifer Close on the pre-election feeling in the U.S. capital



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Baby drama afoot in Real Housewives

SCANDAL

Bellamar claims C-section schedule conflict led to canning

Shinan Govani
Torstar News Service

"I'm nine months pregnant, and I'm going to be picketing in my Louboutin heels," Ariane Bellamar tells me. "I will not be bullied."

Hell hath no fury like a Housewife scorned, and this one is livid. Dismissed from her post on Toronto's most anticipated reality series The Real Housewives of Toronto — by lawyers via email near the tick of midnight on Friday — the actress-model, 38, is also shining light on a show whose details have been kept secret until now. The reason for Bellamar's termination from the 2017 Canadian spin-off of a franchise with monster-tentpoles in New York, Atlanta and Orange County, Calif.?

It is, she says, because the date of her scheduled delivery by Cesarean section changed. Originally placed in the Google Calendar for August 9 — which the producers knew when she was hired this spring — doctors moved the surgery to August 1, telling her the baby had dropped into position and it would be too dangerous to wait.

What that meant, she says, is that the birth of her child with Texas businessman husband Tanner Slaught would conflict with a ladies trip to Muskoka that the show's production team was preparing to shoot. Bellamar immediately informed producers about the change. The following night, she was axed.

"Is this a joke?" she asked Grant Fraggalosch, the executive producer of the Lark Productions-made show, in an email. Her pleas were forwarded to lawyers.

Lark Productions has not responded to queries from the Star.

"I'm supposed to be decorating my nursery right now," Bellamar says. In front of cameras! Instead, she's making calls to her own lawyers and considering a lawsuit. (Worth nothing: firing or demoting a woman because she is pregnant is contrary to the Ontario Human Rights Code.)

Bellamar was raised in Hamilton, and has a daughter, Emma.

She has reality TV experience (she starred on the reality series, Beverly Hills Nannies), a knack for drama (a quarrel with her millionaire CEO ex-boyfriend Patrick Henry landed her in tabloid of The Daily Mail in 2014) and was born to screech "I'm done!", like every Real Housewife in every city does at some point. (Bellamar's resume also includes porn — movies like The Curse of Medusa.)

Ariane Bellamar claims she was dismissed from Real Housewives of Toronto because her scheduled Cesarean section conflicted with filming of a ladies trip to Muskoka. CONTRIBUTED

"I was supposed to be the fire-starter on the show," she says. "I'm very candid." Most importantly (and the reason, I think, so many bona fide socialites in Toronto turned down offers to do the show), "I'm willing to say things because I don't have the connections here," Bellamar says.

"My whole arc" — no surprise that reality shows have "arcs"! — involved "coming back home" and attending the premiere of the movie Suicide Squad, starring Jared Leto. Bellamar has a small part in the film, which was shot in Toronto.

> **"I'm going to be picketing in my Louboutin heels.**
> Ariane Bellamar

On the show, her entree into the city's society sphere was to be facilitated by her cosmetic surgeon, the celebrated Dr. Stephen Mulholland, whose wife, Ann Kaplan Mulholland, is a part of the cast, too.

Bellamar says producers were so keen on her pregnancy, they'd already had conversations about her post-baby plot-lines. "They're were talking about filming me getting wasted...for the first time after the baby. I told them, 'I'm going to be breast-feeding!' "

Asked if there might be a reason for her termination, other than her delivery date, and Bellamar shrugs. "I don't know. Maybe it's one of the other Housewives. Maybe they're jealous." (For this line alone, I feel like Bellamar should be immediately re-hired.) Bellamar says she gave up multiple TV projects to secure this role, and now feels stuck in Canada. "I moved a pretty house. I bought a Maserati. I adjusted my whole life. ."

She continues. "To make matters worse, my husband is in the process of moving his businesses to Toronto but can't legally do so until his visa clears ...I lost my income, my husband cannot work in Canada yet, and we cannot change this situation until the baby is able to travel. ."

"When I was with RHOT we had hospital and grand visiting experiences planned, but like the show, those are also gone."

The icing on the cake, she says, is that producers wanted to document her family's move to Toronto, "which included painting, moving boxes, moving in furniture...completing my nursery because the storyline wanted my husband's character to be developed into the 'stay at home dad' whom (sic) was going to decorate, furnish, and prepare the nursery. It is disheartening to walk around my incomplete house, which is still in the condition that Lark wanted it to be for filming."

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JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Hamilton highlights momzilla culture

THE SHOW: Odd Mom Out, Season 2, Episode 3 (Shomi)
THE MOMENT: The Hamilton cameos

Jill Kargman is Jill in Odd Mom Out. In Season 2, Episode 3, she bemoans her lack of Hamilton tickets. CONTRIBUTED

Upper-east-side — but still hip and fun — mom Jill (series creator Jill Kargman) and her best friend, single doctor Vanessa (K.K. Glick), sit in a diner bemoaning that they are the only New Yorkers who haven't seen the Broadway sensation Hamilton.

"Are you talking about Hamilton?" their waiter asks. "Isn't it life-changing?"

"We haven't seen it," Jill and Vanessa chorus, shame-facedly. Even their waiter is cooler than they are. "How did you get tickets?" Jill asks.

"I'm friends with one of the actors," he answers. "Javier Munoz?"

They shake their heads. "Well, he gets tickets to every show," the waiter continues. "I can see if he still has them for tonight."

"You are Zeus from on high!" Jill exclaims.

At the end of this episode, scrawls on the screen reveal that the actor playing the waiter is Javier Munoz (he recently took over Hamilton's title role), and furthermore, most of the bit parts — a ticket seller, a dad in the park, a couple on a bench, a theatre usher — are played by members of Hamilton's cast.

Usually, making a specific cultural reference is a risky move in a sitcom; it will date your show, make it sound creaky. But Kargman's glee is so bountiful, it works.

More importantly, Odd Mom Out sends up rich, snotty momzillas who love nothing more than making their cohort feel inadequate.

Culture-shaming is a big way they do it.

So the concept will stay current, no matter what novel/play/artist the glitterati move onto next.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

CONTRIBUTED

GET THE AUTHENTIC WEST END EXPERIENCE

When the Honda Celebration of Light happens downtown, people from all over Vancouver come out for the occasion.

Residents of the West End enjoy the experience too. There's something to be said about a world-class event happening in your own neighbourhood, according to Andrea Dowd-Dever, director of operations for the Honda Celebration of Light.

As a West End resident, she experiences them in her own back yard.

"The whole event brings so much energy into the West End," says Dowd-Dever, who has lived in the neighbourhood for seven years. "When summer hits, the West End comes alive, and the culmination of that is the fireworks."

Many West Enders have their favourite spots to watch the Honda Celebration of Light fireworks.

"When the ticketed area with bleachers was introduced on English Bay beach a few years ago, it gave people the choice to get there at 9:00 p.m. and still be able to get great front-row seats," Dowd-Dever says. "The three ticketed areas made it more accessible for people who need a little more space."

Beyond the front-row ticketed areas, there are a few hidden gems where West Enders watch the fireworks. Alexandra Park is one of Dowd-Dever's favourites. Located at the corner of Beach and Burnaby Street, the spot is quieter than English Bay Beach, she explains.

"A regular tradition for myself and my family is to get a takeout picnic and pop down to English Bay or Sunset Beach," Dowd-Dever says. "We'll go down to the concerts. It's a great vibe, family friendly."

For the second year in a row, Stanley Park Brewing will host the Sunsetter Lounge at Sunset Beach, open from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. on event days.

On how to enjoy the Honda Celebration of Light responsibly, Dowd-Dever is open. The only thing to make sure you do is stay respectful of the neighbourhood and its residents.

"Be mindful that the West End is a residential neighbourhood. It's a super diverse demographic with older people and families," she says. "As a resident I feel really proud to host all these visitors in our backyard. It's a great opportunity to show off one of the most beautiful spots in the city — although I'm biased!"

The West End: A walking tour

Going to the Honda Celebration of Light this week? Why not make a day of it?

"Exploring the West End has enough things to do, see and eat to make up more than one fun-filled day," says Stephen Regan of the West End Business Improvement Association.

If you're looking to explore the neighbourhood, here's one route Regan recommends.

Start at the corner of Davie and Burrard Streets

St. Paul's Hospital just one block down Burrard is one of Vancouver's oldest, and a mainstay for the community. Every winter, the hospital's legendary lighting display draws onlookers. The hospital is also home to the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, a leading hub of research. Next door to the hospital, an empty lot has become a beloved community garden. Here you can walk among the well-tended plots where locals grow fresh produce and flowers.

Walk west along Davie Street

Now you're in Davie Village. It's Vancouver's gay village and one of the city's entertainment districts, running down Davie Street between Burrard and Jervis Streets. Here you'll experience lots of local colour, with a high concentration of shops, restaurants, bars, pubs and nightclubs. The mix of food is eclectic and delicious everywhere along the route.

Stop at Jim Deva Plaza

At Davie and Thurlow you'll find the new Jim Deva plaza, a brand new public space dedicated to a local business owner and advocate of the LGBTQ+ community. Right next door, stop in for a burger at Hamburger Mary's, a Davie mainstay.

Continue down Davie to English Bay Beach

Walk down Davie Street and the beach will open up before you. Once you hit Denman Street,

CONTRIBUTED

cross the street into Morton Park and stand among the bronze sculpture A-maze-ing Laughter by Chinese artist Yue Minjun.

Then treat yourself to an ice cream at Marble Slab Creamery, or a bite to eat at one of the many food trucks that will be parked in the area especially for the fireworks. The many restaurants clustered in the area are perfect if you're looking to spend time on a patio.

Walk up Denman

Denman is like the Main Street of Vancouver's West End. It's hip and eclectic, and there's always something different to try, especially when it comes to food. Walk all the way down and experience its energy while you take in the old skating rink, the West End Community Centre, the Joe Fortes public library and more local landmarks. At the end of Denman you'll find Robson Street, Georgia Street, Coal Harbour and access to Stanley Park.

"Anywhere you wander you'll find something interesting," says Regan. "The West End is packed with personality."

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Originally listed for $18.5 million U.S., 50 Cent's Connecticut mansion drops to less than $6M

MEET THE CONDO

Join the South Surrey community

Project overview

Become part of South Surrey's newest townhome community, South Ridge Club. Phase two — Greenway — is now selling and is over 80 per cent sold out. There are 67 three- and four-bedroom units featuring exceptional design that harmoniously blends comfort, quality and environmental sustainability.

Housing amenities

Greenway residents can take advantage of the private clubhouse, complete with an outdoor pool and patio, barbecue space, full exercise room, kitchen and movie theatre. Units are built to include ENERGY STAR windows and appliances, water-efficient irrigation technology and low VOC paints to improve indoor air quality.

Location and transit

Access to major routes leading to Vancouver, the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and the U.S. will never be a problem. There's the South Surrey park and ride, a great option for residents looking to reduce their carbon footprint.

In the area

Greenway offers proximity to some of the very best of South Surrey, including elite schools and exceptional shopping at Morgan Crossing and Grandview Corners. It's just minutes away from Crescent Beach, Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest and extensive trails and walking paths.

GREENWAY AT SOUTH RIDGE CLUB

CONTRIBUTED

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

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Building: Executive-style townhomes
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Shazeen Bandukwala works on dovetails for her box project at The Unplugged Workshop, a class for urban dwellers who like to get their hands dirty. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WOODWORKING

Millennials the do-it-yourself generation

On a muggy June night, the sounds of gentle sawing and pounded mallets ring through a white-walled workspace lined with handsaws, chisels, jack planes and planks of wood — cherry, oak, poplar.

Mumford and Sons' first electric album, Wilder Mind, spins on a record player as amateur woodworkers hunch over their workspaces, carefully measuring and chiselling out joints for their Unplugged Woodshop class project — a basic box.

In this Wednesday night class, half of the six participants are millennial city-dwellers. It's a demographic increasingly drawn to maker culture — and woodworking, specifically — as a way to escape mundane desk jobs and feel the satisfaction of working with their hands, say local woodworkers. Retired suburbanites are out, it seems, and young downtowners are in.

Max Lantz, 29, is among that younger cohort taking the box-making class at Unplugged Workshop in Toronto. He works in advertising right now — it's "extremely unfulfilling," he says — and wants to shift gears into woodworking for a career. The craft is more tactile, he notes, while he saws out the dovetail joints that will later join together to secure the sides of his oak box.

"The work that you do is of great practical value, either to yourself or someone else," Lantz adds. "And I don't get that sense when I spend 40 hours a week staring at a two-dimensional computer screen."

Those are the type of young people drawn to the Unplugged Woodshop, a hand-tools-only space in an ivy-covered warehouse in Toronto, according to owner Tom Fidgen. Fidgen builds custom furniture, teaches woodworking classes around the world and has written two books on the subject. Five years ago he started noticing growing interest from a younger demographic. A decade ago, that wasn't the case.

"Most of my clients were, to be frank, retired old white dudes," says Fidgen.

Alongside the woodworking classes popping up in recent years, there is also a push to make tools and spaces more accessible for city-dwellers. It's something the Tool Library in Toronto is tapping into.

Co-founder Lawrence Alvarez attributes the popularity of woodworking and other types of maker culture to its ability to empower young people.

"In some ways, we lack a lot of control in terms of job selection, places to live — you get priced out of markets — but there are some things you can control."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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High hopes for micro apartments

NEW YORK CITY

What they lack in floor space they make up for in height

New York City's first "micro" apartment complex is open for business, challenging the limits of minimalist living. What the tiny dwellings lack in square footage, they try to make up for in amenities.

Carmel Place, a 55-unit complex that opened this summer in the Kips Bay neighbourhood of Manhattan, represents the first time in decades that the city has allowed apartments to be built this small — ranging from 260 to 360 square feet. That's roughly the equivalent of a one-car garage.

Carmel Place, an apartment complex in Manhattan's Kips Bay neighbourhood , has units that range from 260 to 260 square feet. HANDOUT

It's the latest entry in a national trend toward smaller urban housing. The rise in single-person households — now nearly a third of New York City's households — and ever-higher rents led the city to approve the experimental project. Carmel Place got city land and a waiver from New York's 400-square-foot minimum on new apartments, set in 1987.

Frank Dubinsky of Monadnock Development, which built Carmel Place along with the Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association, said there would probably be more new micro-apartments in New York soon.

Compared to other modern buildings in its neighbourhood, Carmel Place offers relatively modest rents, and services and amenities — such as multi-functional furnishings — that are aimed at making small-scale living a little easier. Architectural elements like eight-foot windows and nearly 10-foot ceilings are also meant to make small spaces more livable.

The complex of services and amenities were put together by a company called Ollie, its name inspired by the words "all inclusive."

"Just because people need a living room and a bedroom doesn't mean they need a designated living room and a bedroom. They just need the functionality of both rooms," explains Chris Bledsoe, co-founder of Ollie, which did design work on the apartment interiors as well. The firm nArchitects designed the interior and exterior of the building.

The amenities are meant to save tenants time and money, and create a sense of community, he said. Carmel Place is "a more plug-and-play living experience — one that solves a housing need for the next two years of someone's life, not forever. You don't need to buy your own furniture or hire a cleaning company. Everything is set to go," he said.

In addition to Internet and WiFi, rent includes a weekly tidying service and a monthly deep clean, along with dog walking, dry-cleaning pickup and even a butler app called Hello Alfred, for customized errands. The nine-storey complex also includes shared spaces.

Thirty-two of the units are market rate, with monthly rents from $2,446 to $3,195 US. Another 14 apartments have rents set by affordable-housing programs topping out at $1,490 US; 60,000 applied for those in a lottery.

"In cities, space is at a premium and the only real solution is to make living spaces smaller," said Lisa Blecker, spokeswoman for Resource Furniture, which provides most of the furniture included in the units.

The furniture — much of it made by the Italian company Clei — emphasizes slim lines and multi-functionality. The nine-foot-long sofa converts into a queen-size bed. A tiny cube of an ottoman transforms into dining chairs. A slim console table expands to seat 10. Although the pieces are pricy Blecker says clients see savings in housing costs and "the realization that 350 square feet can feel luxurious if it's well designed with the right furniture."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Say hello to Vancouver's premiere rental opportunity.

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metro SPORTS

Two-time Stanley Cup winner Brad Richards has retired with 298 goals and 634 assists in 1,126 games

Jays bats rattle snakes

MLB

Edwin, Josh rake and Marcus dials in to seal sweep

Power hitting is the norm for the Toronto Blue Jays.

When they add a quality pitching performance, the results are impressive.

Josh Donaldson and Edwin Encarnacion each hit two-run homers and Marcus Stroman went eight strong innings in the Blue Jays' 10-4 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Wednesday.

Donaldson's homer off Patrick Corbin landed in the Chase Field swimming pool in the first inning. Encarnacion's soaring shot off Daniel Hudson, projected at 471 feet, landed far down the walkway beyond the left field seats in the eighth.

"That was the loudest ball I've ever witnessed live in a stadium, by far," Stroman said. "I was under (in the clubhouse) and I ran out and saw where it landed. It was pretty special. He's the man."

It was Encarnacion's 26th home run of the season and ninth in his last eight games at Chase.

"I haven't seen many like that," manager John Gibbons said. "He rakes it in this place."

Stroman (8-4) allowed a run and eight hits to help the Blue Jays sweep the two-game series. He bounced back from a rough outing in Oakland.

"I didn't command the ball as good in Oakland," he said. "Spinning pitches were left kind of more middle. I just had more action on my pitches today."

Edwin Encarnacion rounds the bases after hitting an eighth-inning long-bomb Wednesday. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

WEDNESDAY in Arizona

10	4
BLUE JAYS	D-BACKS

Darwin Barney tripled in two runs and brought another home with a sacrifice fly for Toronto. Devon Travis had three hits, two of them doubles.

It was another power display for Toronto.

"We've always had that. That's kind of our trademark and you live and die with that," Gibbons said. "We're getting another guy back here Monday (Jose Bautista) that's pretty good at doing that, too."

Corbin (4-9) was tagged for six runs, five earned, on nine hits in 5-2/3 innings to fall to 0-7 at home.

But Arizona manager Chip Hale wasn't all that critical.

"Early, he was not getting ahead in the count and obviously got hurt," he said. "Left the ball out over the plate to Donaldson and he hit it out. Second, third, fourth innings, really got ahead in the count, threw a lot of first-pitch strikes and controlled the zone. I thought he really pitched well."

Tuffy Gosewisch hit a three-run homer off of Brett Cecil in the ninth for Arizona.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AROUND BASEBALL

CUBS 6, METS 2
Anthony Rizzo homered twice off Bartolo Colon, Kyle Hendricks pitched 6 1/3 scoreless innings and Chicago beat New York to take two of three in the rematch of the NLCS.

INDIANS 11, ROYALS 4
Tyler Naquin hit two of the Indians' five homers and had a career-high six RBIs, helping Cleveland rout Kansas City 11-4 to open up a nine-game lead atop the AL Central.

ASTROS 7, ATHLETICS 0
Doug Fister pitched seven innings and Jose Altuve continued his torrid hitting as the Houston Astros defeated the Oakland Athletics 7-0 on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MCLAREN REPORT

Russia expects final decision by Sunday

Russia's top Olympic official expects a final decision by Sunday on whether the entire Russian team will be banned from next month's games in Rio de Janeiro over allegations of state-sponsored doping.

The International Olympic Committee said its executive board will meet via teleconference on Sunday to consider the issue, but added that a final decision was expected "within the next seven days."

The IOC is examining the legal options of a blanket ban following a report by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren that accused Russia's sports ministry of overseeing doping of the country's Olympic athletes.

"The issue will be finally resolved by the end of this week, probably on Sunday," Russian Olympic Committee president Alexander Zhukov said Wednesday at a meeting of the ROC. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NO BOYCOTT

Regardless of how the various doping-related cases turn out, Zhukov said a Russian Olympic boycott was out of the question.

MLS

Whitecaps trade for proven striker

The Vancouver Whitecaps acquired striker Fabian Espindola from D.C. United on Wednesday in exchange for general allocation money.

Espindola ranks seventh overall in active goal scorers in MLS regular-season games with 64 goals over 10 seasons in the league. He has 73 goals and 42 assists in 252 appearances in all competitions.

"We are thrilled to welcome Fabian to Vancouver," said Whitecaps head coach Carl Robinson. "He is a proven goal scorer in this league, always difficult to play against, and knows what it takes to win."

Espindola first joined MLS with Real Salt Lake in 2007. He spent the 2013 season with the New York Red Bulls and the past 2-1/2 seasons with D.C. United.

Fabian Espindola GETTY IMAGES

He has started 10 of 15 regular-season games this season, scoring four goals, and adding one assist.

The deal is pending receipt of Espindola's international transfer certificate, medical, and Canadian work permit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Martin buoys Mariners to win in extras

On the day Felix Hernandez returned to the mound, Leonys Martin gave the Seattle Mariners the biggest boost.

Martin hit his second home run of the game, a solo shot with one out in the 11th inning that sent Seattle over the Chicago White Sox 6-5 on Wednesday.

"Every time you win a ballgame, it's good no matter how you win the ballgame, but this is a great feeling," Martin said.

Martin hit a two-run drive in the second inning. He then drove an 0-2 pitch from Dan Jennings (3-2) over the wall in right for his 13th homer. His previous season high was eight homers in 457 at-bats with Texas in 2013.

WEDNESDAY in Seattle

6	5
MARINERS	WHITE SOX

"With two strikes, especially in the second half, he's taking some walks, he's not swinging quite as hard," Mariners manager Scott Servais said. "I believe the pitch he hit out was an 0-2 pitch. Not trying to kill it, just hit it, because he's got a lot of ability."

Vidal Nuno (1-1) pitched one inning for the victory.

Seattle pulled within 5-4 on Mike Zunino's two-run homer in seventh. The Mariners tied it on Adam Lind's solo shot in the eighth.

Hernandez, activated off the disabled list earlier in the day, allowed five runs on 10 hits in 6-2/3 innings. He struck out two and walked two in his first start since May 27.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leonys Martin hits the game-winning home run on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Canadian women top China
Teenage midfielder Jessie Fleming scored a highlight-reel goal in the sixth minute to give Canada a 1-0 win over China on Wednesday in Paris in its penultimate outing before the Rio Olympics. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto FC signs Canadian
Toronto FC has signed Canadian international forward Tosaint Ricketts. The 28-year-old from Edmonton has been training with the MLS team since late May. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anti-doping lab given OK for Rio Games
The World Anti-Doping Agency said Wednesday it has reinstated the laboratory that will carry out drug testing for the Rio Olympics.

The lab was shuttered last month for what WADA called "nonconformity with International Standard for Laboratories."

Olivier Niggli, director general of WADA, said in a statement the lab would be running "optimally" when the Olympics open on Aug. 5. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hearn mindful of next generation

GOLF

Ontarian gives kids time of day ahead of Canadian Open

David Hearn said yes with a smile every time.

Hearn signed every hat, tee flag and ticket handed to him. He took off his sunglasses and put them behind his cap for every photo and asked the name of every young fan as he made his way off the 18th green at Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville, Ont., on Wednesday at the pro-am tournament ahead of the Canadian Open.

The PGA regular from nearby Brantford, Ont., takes the time because he remembers what it was like to be on the other side of the rope.

"As a young kid I used to come to Canadian Opens and I remember waiting for a lot of golfers I admired," said Hearn, who looked up to Fred Couples, among others. "I would've been so disappointed if none of them stopped to speak to me."

Hearn finished third at last year's Canadian Open, two strokes back of eventual winner Jason Day of Australia and a shot behind American Bubba Watson. The Canadian caught fans' attention with a 64 in the second round and had a two-shot lead after shooting a 68 in the third.

David Hearn, who finished third at last year's Canadian Open, hopes to create some fond new memories starting Thursday at Glen Abbey in Oakville, Ont. SAM GREENWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

A 72 and the solid play of Day and Watson in last year's fourth round put the PGA Tour win just beyond Hearn's reach. Still, he remembers the ovation he got from Canadian fans as he approached the 18th tee after Day's three consecutive birdies had won the event.

1954

A Canadian hasn't won the tournament since Pat Fletcher in 1954, with Hearn and Mike Weir (2004, runner-up in a playoff) coming the closest.

He hopes moments like that can help grow the game in Canada.

"At the time I was just in the moment," Hearn said. "But looking back, I hope I inspired some young golfers, some junior players across the country."

Hearn believes that memorable moments like his near-win last year at Glen Abbey or the upcoming Rio Olympics — where he, Graham DeLaet, Brooke Henderson and Alena Sharp will represent Canada — are an opportunity to create new fans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RULE ENFORCEMENT

Premier League vows to lay down law

Finger-jabbing players aggressively challenging referees. Rival teams in mass brawls. Touchline confrontations between managers.

They all feature in a show-reel of shame produced by English soccer authorities.

And the video is being shown to players at the Premier League's 20 clubs ahead of the new season as part of the latest crackdown on bad behaviour that damages the image of the league.

"We're looking to make a step change in the way our participants behave and how they are seen around the world," Premier League chairman Richard Scudamore said after showing the compilation of incidents of indiscipline at a former London courthouse on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRACKDOWN

Competition organizers instead want these existing regulations more strongly enforced:

- Dissent toward referees and assistants by players **(yellow card)**
- Offensive or abusive language or gestures toward officials **(red card)**
- Physical contact with officials **(yellow card if not aggressive; red card for a confrontation)**
- Surrounding officials **(yellow card and team sanctions)**
- Misconduct in the technical area by players and managers.

UFC

Mendes gets 2-year ban for 'big mistake'

UFC featherweight contender Chad Mendes has been suspended for two years after testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency announced the sanction Wednesday. USADA administers the UFC's anti-doping policy.

USADA said Mendes tested positive for a growth hormone-releasing hexapeptide in an out-of-competition test conducted May 17.

Mendes (17-4) is suspended until June 10, 2018, when he will be 33 years old.

Mendes has fought for the UFC 145-pound title three times, losing twice to Jose Aldo and once to Conor McGregor. The Northern California native has lost three of his last four fights overall, including a first-round knockout loss to Frankie Edgar in his most recent bout Dec. 11.

Chad Mendes GETTY IMAGES

Mendes said on Twitter last month that he "didn't do my homework, and that was a big mistake."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Caps, Johansson strike deal
The Washington Capitals narrowly avoided arbitration with Marcus Johansson, re-signing the forward to a $13.75-million, three-year contract. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big Sam lined up for big job
England is on the verge of hiring Sunderland manager Sam Allardyce to take charge of the national team as Roy Hodgson's successor.

A person with knowledge of the situation told AP on Wednesday that the English FA is close to finalizing Allardyce's appointment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zakarin wins 17th stage, but Froome closes in on victory
Ilnur Zakarin won the first Alpine stage of the Tour de France after using a late attack in the final climb on Wednesday while race leader Chris Froome increased his lead to 2:27 in the overall standings.

Zakarin was part of a breakaway that formed early in the 184.5-kilometre 17th stage from Bern to the artificial lake of Finhaut-Emosson in Switzerland.

It was Zakarin's first stage win at cycling's biggest event.

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RECIPE Chicken Chili Burger

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Even if you're rushed, do not skip the crema on this zesty burger.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Total time: 45 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 clove garlic, minced really fine
- 1/2 red onion, minced fine
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 1 egg, whisked
- 1 lb ground chicken
- 4 thin slices of cheddar
- 3/4 to 1 cup guacamole
- Lettuce, tomato and whatever else you like on a burger
- 4 buns

Crema
- 1 small (250 ml) container of sour cream
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- Pinch of salt and pepper

Directions

1. In a bowl, stir together the Crema ingredients. In a large bowl, combine ground chicken, garlic, onion, cumin, chili powder, egg, salt and pepper. Shape into patties.

2. Add a touch of oil to your pan and warm over medium heat. Put patties in and allow to cook on one side for about 5 minutes. Flip them and cook 2 or 3 minutes before placing the cheese on top. Cover pan to help the cheese melt. Use a meat thermometer to make sure the internal temperature is 165 F.

3. Toast the buns. Spread Crema on the bottom bun, add lettuce, burger, guac and top with the bun.

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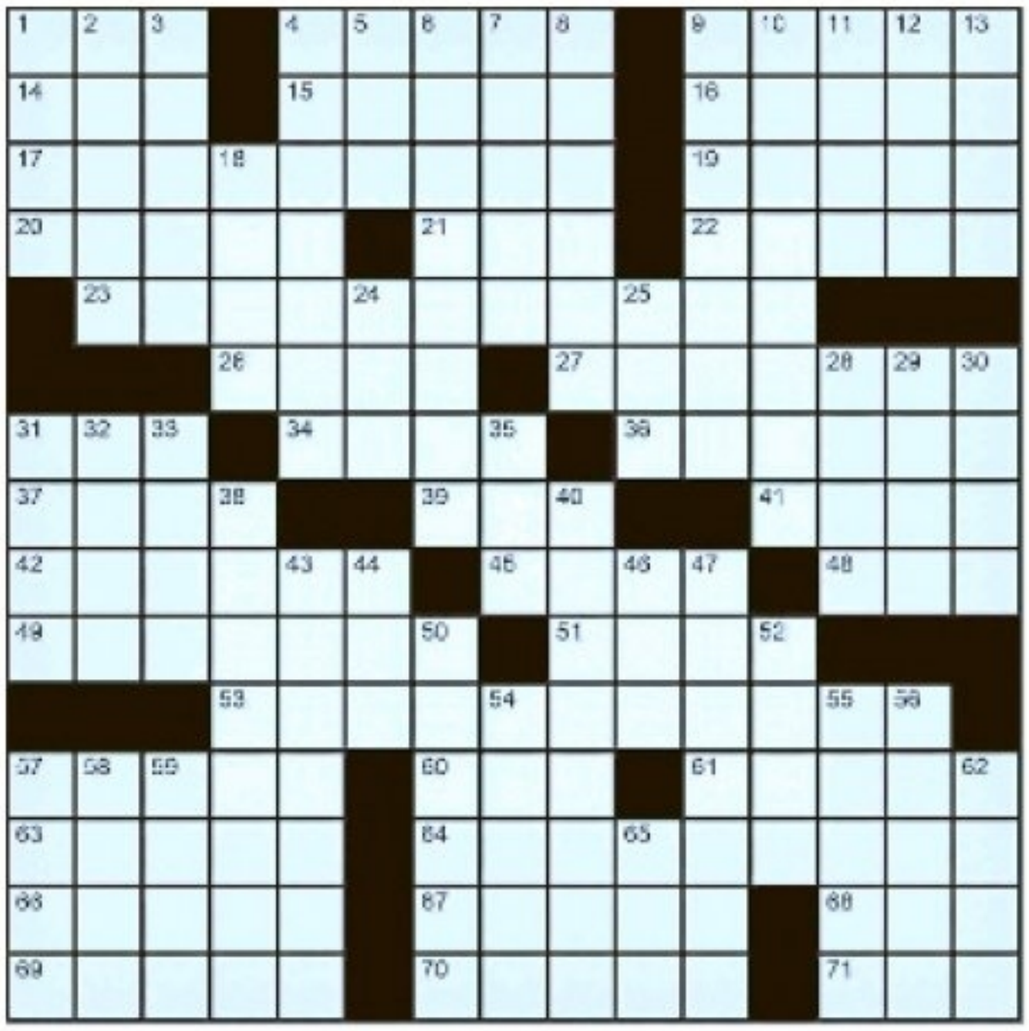
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Mr. Ocasek
4. Anwar _ (Former Egyptian President)
9. Bug's landing spot on a flower
14. Spanish 'bear'
15. City in Australia
16. Reflection
17. Guitar fingering notation
19. Taken-back vehicles
20. Jeweller's unit
21. Caesar's 1002
22. "_ you clever!"
23. Northern Ontario town where filmmaker James Cameron was born in 1954
26. Gladiator's 552
27. Pieces in Bryan Adams' wardrobe
31. USA state
34. Beginning as two-by-two marchers in song...
36. Handbook
37. Drug deal buster, for short
39. Mystery novelist Ms. Grafton
41. Ms. Gershon
42. Greatest extent
45. Chg. card percentages
48. Li'l Australian state
49. Ink pad user
51. Kind of freshwater fish
53. Magician
57. Finely chop
60. Impair
61. Madagascar animal
63. Construe
64. July 22nd to July 24th, 2016: Lumberjack Heritage Festival des _ (Annual bilingually-titled event in #23-Across)
66. Iowa city where 1930 painting American Gothic is set
67. Bodybuilding legend Charles
68. Mr. Bacon, to pals
69. Mustard brand
70. Looks as though
71. Clairvoyance, e.g.

DOWN
1. US campus mil. program
2. "Wicked Game" singer Chris
3. Hooded snake
4. Pancakes flipper
5. At the age of, in Latin [abbr.]
6. Music store items: 2 wds.
7. Halls-with-skylights
8. Just-one-deity believer
9. Flesh-chomping fish
10. Coming forth
11. Record
12. 1957 Igor Stravinsky ballet
13. For fear that
18. Particular Pacific patrol, puny-ly
24. "_ City" (2005)
25. Philosophy
28. Wreck
29. Treats cowhides
30. Cabbage concoction
31. Cross to bear
32. "Round and Round" rodent rockers
33. Ms. Bombeck
35. Fashion designer Anna
38. Annual pop culture event in San Diego, this year from July 21st to July 24th
40. Gird
43. Abdomen organs
44. _ Aviv
46. Howe'er
47. Overcast
50. Dances in a way
52. Casket stand
54. Lightly fry
55. Chimney plume
56. Melodies
57. Docile
58. Stagnate
59. Without wearables
62. Invitee's 'yes'
65. _ sandwich

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
A friend might throw you a curveball or do something you least expect today. However, you also might meet someone new and unusual — who knows?

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Today your relations with authority figures are a bit unpredictable. You don't know if you should stay or jump. Because you don't know, do nothing.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will love to suddenly travel today; however, travel plans are unpredictable. Enjoy meeting people from other cultures and different backgrounds. Enjoy learning something new.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Something having to do with shared property or inheritances will be unpredictable today. Knowing this, make it a point to do your homework and be on top of things.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You might make a new friend today, or a friend or partner might do something that surprises you. This is an exciting day with lots of electricity in the air!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your ambition is strong today, and so is your intuition. Trust your hunches. Because you feel so independent, you might not be keen to cooperate with others. Hmmm, is this wise?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A sudden invitation to a social event will delight you today. Sports events might have unexpected results, because today is a bit of a crapshoot. Nevertheless, it's a fun day!

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might buy something new and high-tech for your home today. Alternatively, something at home might break down. Grrr. That's because your home routine will have some surprises.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You're full of bright, clever, innovative ideas today. Why not write them down so that later, you can run them up the flagpole to see if anyone salutes?

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You might have a clever idea about how to boost your income today. Likewise, you spontaneously might buy something, especially something hightech, a videogame or perhaps modern art.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today you feel ambitious, impulsive and restless! That's why all kinds of spontaneous suggestions will appeal to you. "I'm ready!"

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a restless day for you, because you want something to happen and you're not sure what. But you want to break free from routine and find some new thrills.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	1	3	8		7			
	7				6		2	3
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7	6							9
8							3	5
5								
9	8		3				4	
			9		8	1	7	

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4	8	7	9	5	3	6	2	1
2	9	4	5	6	8	7	1	3
6	1	8	3	7	4	2	5	9
7	3	5	2	1	9	8	4	6
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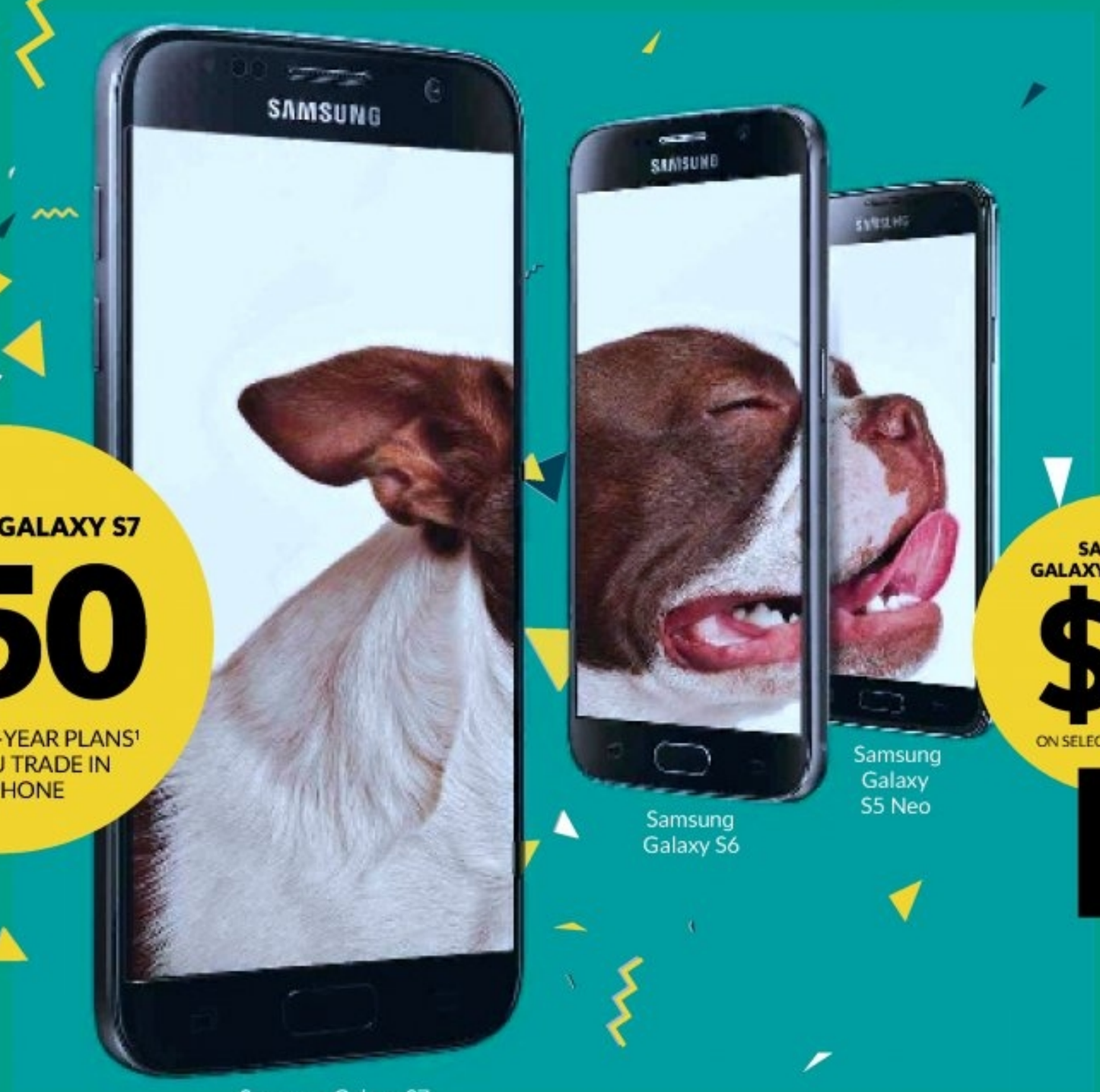

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